Introduction to Assessment in PBL

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“An assessment is an activity, assigned by the professor, that yields comprehensive information for analyzing, discussing, and judging a learner’s performance of valued abilities and skills.”

- Huba and Freed, *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning*, 2000

*Assessment is more than assigning grades: it implies ongoing interaction and communication between instructor and student.*
Assessment Decisions

Faculty Perspective:
“Learning drives everything.”
- Barbara Walvoord

Student Perspective:
“Grading drives everything.”
Key Questions

• What do I want my students to learn? ⇒ Learning objectives
  – Content knowledge
  – Process skills

• How will I know if they have learned it? ⇒ Assessment strategies
  – Summative
  – Formative

• How much do I value that learning? ⇒ Look at what counts towards the grade
Types of Assessment

• Summative assessment
  – Traditional grading for accountability
  – Usually formal, comprehensive
  – Judgmental

• Formative assessment
  – Feedback for improvement/development
  – Usually informal, narrow/specialized
  – Suggestive
Assessment and Learning Objectives

Bringing content and process together

Content Knowledge

Process Skills

Assessment