

Teaching and Tools – Beat the Cheat, part 1 (reconsidering your course assessments)

Advantages of Alternative Assessments

- They provide a means of assessing valued skills that cannot be directly assessed with traditional tests.
- They provide a more realistic setting for student performance than traditional tests.
- They focus on student performance and the quality of work performed by students.
- They can be easily aligned with established learning outcomes.
- Process can be costly in terms of time, effort, equipment, materials, facilities, or funds.

Disadvantages of Alternative Assessments

- Process can be costly in terms of time, effort, equipment, materials, facilities, or funds.
- Rating process is sometimes more subjective than traditional exams.

How to Develop Alternative Assessments

1. Define the instructional outcome you want to assess as clearly
2. Distinguish between those outcomes that can validly be assessed *solely* by performance assessments and those that can be assessed just as effectively by objective measures.
3. Create tasks that elicit evidence of the student's ability to perform the targeted skill.
4. Decide what kinds of teacher guidance can be used while still allowing students the freedom to learn and do it their own way.
5. Try out the assessment and make revisions as necessary.

I'm here to help! Feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in developing or using an alternative assessment.

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