Mix and match: resource overview

Collection: Assessment

Learning outcomes

To become practised in linking learning outcomes to assessment type, and to begin to see the value of using learning outcomes as a tool in the planning of modules.

Overview

Educationists frequently highlight the importance of the link between learning outcomes--the things that students will be expected to be able to do as a result of taking a module--and assessment--the test or tests they undergo during the module in order to prove that they are capable of doing those things. Approved 'best practice' is first to work out what the aim of the module is (to get the students to understand some basic ideas about literary theory, perhaps, and to enable them to apply them to specific texts), then to devise appropriate outcomes, and only at that point to devise an assessment strategy. The form(s) of assessment that are chosen will then help determine the nature and structure of the module's teaching sessions.

This sequence is not always adhered to when English lecturers plan their modules. There are well-established forms of assessment in the subject and it is too easy simply to start with them when planning a module: assuming that the module will be assessed by a long essay, for example, and that there will be a sequence of lectures and seminars. The learning outcomes then get written afterwards, almost as an afterthought, to comply with institutional requirements.

The aim of this set of activities is to highlight the virtues of doing things the other way about--to show that particular learning outcomes can give rise to particular forms of assessment, and that linking outcomes and assessment like this is the best way to ensure that students get what lecturers want them to from their modules.

Activities within this resource

- Matching assessment to outcome: individual activity
- Matching assessment to outcome: group activity

Resources in the Assessment Collection

- Assessment: introduction to the collection
- Assessment audit: resource overview
    - Auditing English: individual activity
    - Auditing English: group activity
- Designing and running innovative assessments: resource overview
    - Creative assessments in Literature: outcomes, criteria: individual activity
    - Creative assessments in Literature: outcomes, criteria: group activity
- Assessment SWOT analysis: resource overview
    - SWOT analysis: individual activity
    - SWOT analysis: group activity
- **Mix and match: resource overview (*you are here)**
    - Matching assessment to outcome: individual activity
    - Matching assessment to outcome: group activity
- Creative assessment: resource overview
    - Creative criticism
- Feedback and marking strategies: resource overview
    - Marking exercise: individual activity
    - Marking exercise: group activity
- Computer-aided assessment: resource overview
    - Writing multiple-choice questionnaires: individual activity
    - Writing multiple-choice questionnaires: group activity
- What is assessment for? : resource overview
    - Balancing the interest groups: individual activity
    - Balancing the interest groups: group activity