What are some ways to assess students’ understanding?

**1) Summative Assessment**

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning *at the end of an instructional unit* by comparing it against some standard or benchmark.

* Examples of summative assessments include a midterm exam, a final project, or a final paper.
* They are often *high stakes*, i.e. they often have a high point value.

**2) Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students **during instruction** that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes.

* It provides *assessment-based feedback* to teachers and students.
* The function of this feedback is to help teachers and students make *adjustments* that will improve students' achievement of intended curricular aims.
* It can be *anonymous* and is often *low stakes*, which can make students feel more at ease with the assessment.

My topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples of Formative Assessment:

Write an example of an in-class or in-lab assessment of understanding for your specific topic.

Modified from: Transformative Assessment, by W. James Popham

Carnegie-Mellon teaching center: https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/assessment/basics/formative-summative.html