

Study Guide for Formative Assessment for ERWC 3.0

This study guide has been designed to support you in using the “Formative Assessment for ERWC 3.0: Professional Learning” paper as a resource for instructional decision making. You can answer the questions by locating the headings and subheadings in the paper that correspond with the language and/or terminology in the questions and then reading and reviewing the text beneath those headings. In some instances, you may need to apply generalities stated in the paper to the specifics of life in ERWC classrooms.

1. What are the key features of formative assessment?
2. In working toward classroom communities that support formative assessment, what are seven “understandings” that we need to entertain? What are some steps that teachers could take in their classrooms to make these “understandings” a real aspect of classroom life?
3. What community procedures can teachers apply to plan and prepare for formative assessment events? In particular, determine how the following could be accomplished: 1) identify learning goals; 2) develop success criteria, and 3) plan for formative assessment activities. (Concept definitions: What is a learning goal? What are success criteria?)
4. Several community strategies for formative assessment contribute to its effective implementation. These include inquiry-oriented instruction, classroom conversation, questioning, student portfolios, and pre-designed strategies for formative assessment (Appendix A). How can each of these be most effectively implemented in ERWC classrooms?
5. We can think of formative assessment as an ongoing process that goes through cyclical stages. What stages normally occur in a formative assessment cycle?
6. Feedback is enormously important during the formative assessment process. Why is feedback so important? What patterns and procedures for feedback are likely to work best in ERWC classrooms according to what we have discovered about the process?
7. What has research on formative assessment revealed about its benefits to students?