

## HOW TO CREATE ASSESSMENTS

# FORMATIVE VS. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

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In assessments, there are two main categories, formative and summative assessments. The formative assessments are to help the students be in **FORM** for the final summative assessments, where the students display the **SUM** of their knowledge.

### FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT: FOR IMPROVEMENT

**Definition:** Evaluating the learning that is occurring to provide feedback for improvement.

**Explanation:** Formative assessments are FOR improvement.

Think of the student's learning as a journey. **Formative** assessments are the pit stops or redirections along the way. They're for you to make sure the students are heading in the right direction, and to help them get to their final destination. If a student is not heading the right way, you get them back on track through formative assessments.

**Examples** of formative assessments in the drama classroom are: entry slips, exit slips, classwork, homework, daily grades, participation or ensemble grades, class activities, quizzes, and preview performances.

### SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS: THE SUM OF LEARNING

**Definition:** The final evaluation of the student's learning.

**Explanation:** Summative assessments are the SUM of the student's learning.

Formative assessments help you evaluate the student's journey and let you know where the student needs to improve. When a student takes a **summative** assessment --that's it. They're done. They've reached their final destination, and there's no going back or going forward.

**Examples** of summative assessments in the drama classroom are: final performances, production completion, project completion, end-of-unit assessments, mid-term exams, and final exams.

**To compare the two:** Formative assessments are like rehearsals where the students and learn grow. Summative assessments are like the final performance of a show. Once that final performance is completed, it's done. There is no going back and no opportunity for improvement. The sum of the student's learning has been displayed.