**December 2019**

*Please share with your faculty:*

**Performance Assessments**

Performance assessments are assessments that go beyond measuring students’ ability to know and remember information. Instead they measure students’ attainment of higher order cognitive processes involving their ability to apply learned skills and information when performing a task or producing a product. In other words, unlike achievement tests, which measure students’ declarative knowledge (i.e., the what), performance assessments measure students’ procedural knowledge (i.e., the how). In addition to measuring higher order cognitive processes, they are also ideal for measuring performance in less concrete subject areas such as music, dance, art, computer science, and engineering. Some examples of performance assessments include, dance or musical recitals, art portfolios, story book projects, research proposals, and software design. While there are many types of performance assessments, they usually share the following characteristics: they are complex, authentic, process/product-oriented, open-ended, and time-bound (Hillard, 2015). In order to create effective performance assessments, it is important to create and evaluate them in alignment with specific student-learning objectives. Along these lines, it is essential to make grading expectations for these types of assessments transparent. Instructors should know what they are looking for when evaluating students’ work, and students also need to know what is expected of them during their performance of the tasks. Clear, specific, and objective rubrics provide an ideal way for making expectations on performance assessments transparent.

**Check out!**

Hillard, Patricia (2015). Performance-based assessment: Reviewing the basics. *Edutopia.* Retrieved November, 2019 from <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/performance-based-assessment-reviewing-basics-patricia-hilliard>

**Please share examples** of ways your program or course uses performance assessments and I will share those examples on [YU’s Learning Assessment Website](http://yu.edu/provost/assessment/).

**Important reminder:** Please remember to submit to me an end-of-semester Assessment Activity Report. If you have any questions on preparing your report, please contact me.