*Please share with your faculty:*

**Assessment question:**What is the difference between **formative** and **summative** assessment?

Assessment is the ongoing process of evidence gathering.  Two ways of gathering assessment information are through formative and summative assessment.

**Formative assessments** occur during the instructional unit and provide ongoing feedback to students and instructors about the progression of learning.  Formative assessments enable students and instructors to monitor learning and instruction and make necessary adjustments.  Examples of formative assessment include:  observations of students during class activities and class discussions, homework exercises, planned or unplanned pop-quizzes, and student-self evaluations of learning.

**Summative assessments** occur at the end of a unit of study and provide information about the amount of information that was learned or the extent to which learning objectives were achieved. Examples of summative assessments include:  final exams, term papers, final projects, high-stakes tests, and certificate exams.

**Suggested Read:** Dreon, Oliver (2014).  Formative assessment:  The secret sauce of blended success.  *Faculty Focus.* Retrieved Feb. 2, 2016 from <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/formative-assessment-secret-sauce-blended-success/>

**Important Reminders:** Thank you to those who have submitted your Fall 2015 Assessment Activity reports. For those who have not yet submitted your reports, please do so as soon as possible (they were due Jan 15).   I am happy to meet with you to answer any questions about completing  the report and/or your Spring 2016 assessment plans.

Please also remember to visit [YU's Learning Assessment Website](http://yu.edu/provost/assessment/) for additional assessment tips and resources.