*Please share with your faculty:*

**Using final exam results to close the assessment loop!**

Closing the assessment loop, which is the final phase in the assessment process, involves analyzing and using assessment results to inform program and course level decisions and changes for improving student learning. When many people think of final exams they tend to categorize them as a form of summative assessment. Summative assessment as opposed to formative assessment is used for the purpose of evaluating student performance. On the other hand, formative assessment is used for the purpose informing and improving student learning and instruction. Even though final exams are given at the conclusion of a course they still can play a powerful role in going beyond merely evaluating student performance by using the results as feedback to inform both students and instructors about future areas in need of improvement. As a result, final exam results can serve as a valuable component in closing the assessment loop. For example, students should be encouraged to reflect upon final exam results and consider how their performance can provide insight about the effectiveness of their study strategies. This information can in turn help students revise their study strategies and inform their future learning goals. Instructors should also use feedback from final exams to reflect on the effectiveness of their instruction and assessment methodologies and make any needed changes in their teaching of future courses. By considering final exams as a form of formative assessment vs. summative assessment, both students and instructors will be more likely to move beyond performance-based mindsets and instead will be encouraged to consider how their performance can lead to future growth in student learning.

**Check out!** Box, Cathy (2018). Assessment for learning: It just makes sense. *Faculty Focus.* Retrieved January 7, 2019 from <https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/assessment-for-learning-it-just-makes-sense/>

**Please share examples** of effective ways faculty in your program use final exam results to close the assessment loop, and I will feature 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 by **January 23**. Please contact me if you need any assistance with completing your report.