*Please share with your faculty:*

**The importance of formative assessments for informing student learning and instruction**

Formative assessmentsoccur periodically during an instructional unit and provide ongoing feedback to students and instructors about the progression of learning. Formative assessments differ from summative assessments, which occur at the end of a unit of study and are evaluative in nature. Formative assessments are important so that students and instructors can monitor learning and instruction and make necessary adjustments during a learning unit. This in turn helps to ensure that student learning objectives are met at the end of a unit of study. Examples of formative assessments include, observations of students during class activities and class discussions, homework exercises, planned or unplanned pop-quizzes, student-self evaluations of learning, and peer assessments.

**Check out!** For a specific example illustrating the benefits of formative assessment, please check out YU’sLearningAssessment Spotlight: Using Formative Assessment to Improve Student’s Learning of Lesson Plan Writing by Dr. Chaya Gorsetman, Clinical Associate Professor of Education and Co-Chair of the Education Department at Stern College for Women

**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 Reminder:**Please remember to email me your end-of semester program assessment reports by June 1.

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