

## Assessment in E-Learning: Midterm Group Assignment

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Leya Hoy's background is in Accounting, working in various positions in the industry for the past 15 years. She recently had a career assessment and realized that working in education is her real passion. She is completing the MS in CTE program and taking this course to become certified to teach online.

Bhaskar Singh has had a varied background. He currently teaches in the Business and Public Administration program but his education includes BS, MS in Electrical Engineering and MBA in finance. His experience includes industry and government. He was born in India and grew-up in Brazil. His high school and undergraduate degrees are from Brazil.

Mariette Baker-McDermid is an active educator with international experience who is accustomed to wearing many hats. Mariette has held positions of responsibility in every area of the educational system. She has operated as a teacher throughout the K12 system, an administrator at the elementary level, a librarian while working at the James Smith Indian Reserve, taught technology integration in Thailand and worked inservicing teachers in administration and middle years science in Ghana.

Our diverse group, looked at assessment tools from the same diverse range of categories. SurveyMonkey, which is a data-gathering tool, Excel, a very versatile tool for the mathematical computation of grades, and Ourstory, which is a production tool. These tools all have a place in the formative and summative areas of assessment. We hope that our explanations of the research we have conducted will help you understand the versatility of these tools as well as motivate you to try them in your teaching environments. Although, they are computer tools they could be used in all forms of teaching situations: hybrid, f2f, synchronous or asynchronous.

Leya Hoy

Excel Grade Book Tool:

Excel is the spreadsheet program produced by Microsoft. A spreadsheet application such as Excel allows you to keep data in a table format and to manipulate the data for effective reporting. For educational purposes, it can provide a tool for educators to keep track of student grades by maintaining a database of students, the assignments, and even lookup tables for assigning grades based on scores. For those who want to take it to a more advanced

level, you can do average functions and even create Pivot tables of information. Educators can also use the data as a formative assessment. The tables can provide a snapshot of what modules or assignments pose the most difficulty. The advantage of Excel is once you have a template created you can utilize it over and over just by copying the spreadsheet into a new worksheet or saving it as a whole new file.

Some of the challenges with Excel for educators may be lack of training. Most individuals with little knowledge of financial databases do not typically utilize Excel for database tracking. As Microsoft changes their application, employees are not always granted the training to learn the new features available.

This [link](#) takes you to a site that is helpful in explaining why and how to utilize the ideas of starting and creating an excel grade book.

This [link](#) provided by the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire is also an excellent source for providing an educational step by step on how to create and utilize an excel grade book.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled 'Book1 - Microsoft Excel'. The ribbon includes Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, and View. The spreadsheet contains the following data:

Assessment for E-Learning for Educators Gradebook											
Name	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	Module 6	Module 7	Module 8	Total	Overall Average Grade	
Student 1	2	6	6	4	6	6	4	5	39	4.88	
Student 2	4	6	7	3.5	5	7	4	5	41.5	5.19	
Student 3	2	4	8	4	6	8	4	5	41	5.13	
Student 4	3	5	8	2	4	7	3.5	5	37.5	4.69	
Student 5	4	3	6	2	4	6	4	4	33	4.13	
Student 6	4	5	6	4	4	6	2	4	35	4.38	
Student 7	4	5	5	3	3	6	3	3	32	4.00	
Student 8	2	3	5	2	2	5	3	5	27	3.38	
Student 9	1	4	4	3	4	6	3	5	30	3.75	
Student 10	4	6	6	4	6	8	4	5	43	5.38	
<b>Total Student Score</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>46</b>			
<b>AVG Student Score</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>4.6</b>			
<b>Total Assignment Value</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>			

The next assessment tool is ourstory.com. This is a production tool that has unlimited potential in the online classroom. It is a multimedia tool that follows a timeline. It allows the user to select a date/year/or range of time and then post pictures, videos, and/or audio to be embedded within in. The tool also allows you to collaborate with others- thus enabling group projects.

This tool could be utilized with all types of online users. It can be used as a blogging tool where thoughts are posted along with images, videos etc. This would be an excellent tool for formative and summative assessment. Depending on the intent, peers could comment therefore using it as formative assessment. It could also be used as a portfolio showcasing the students' best of the best thus using it for summative assessment. How about using it as a 'living resume'?

Content classes could certainly take advantage of its components for projects. Timelines are the obvious. Whether it is the sequential development of a science fair project, to the biography of a poet/playwright, the choices are endless. An example can be seen at this web address:

<http://www.ourstory.com/story.html?v=187652>. Projects can also be embedded into web pages, blogs etc.

This could also be used as a collaborative writing tool. Choose a theme and have students upload an image as well as a few lines of free verse and you would end up with a collaborative class poem. This could be analyzed for poetic devices, imagery etc. How about using it as a method of review for vocabulary words? Upload words and have students create definitions or add images to help explain concepts. It could be used as a treasure hunt. The first student chooses a starting date and supplies a riddle for the next student to solve using the unit's content and then adds the next clue. This could be a good activity for activating prior-knowledge or as a summary to the unit to review the concepts learned.

One challenge for this tool was it was difficult to determine how to actually make the timeline. A tutorial that showed step-by-step how to use the tool would be extremely beneficial. Another challenge would be if you wanted to use all of the tools (unlimited privacy circles, videos, and profiles) you would need to pay the \$39.95 yearly charge.

If one of these ideas seem viable or have piqued your interest, check out the video of how to and its features at: <http://www.ourstory.com/andy>.

For one of our tools we choose Survey Monkey because it is a very powerful tool for data gathering and analysis. Increasingly our performance as educators can be measured and stated by facts supported by data. Survey Monkey is free

if we create questioners with less than 10 questions, one only needs to create an account and start using the tool.

The cost is \$19.95/month if we want to create unlimited question surveys. Results of surveys can be either received via email or received via blog page or web page. This tool is also a great tool for statistics class where learners can use survey techniques to design class projects and analyze statistically significant data after getting others to fill out the survey.

A survey tool can be used weekly by any on-line instructor to gather weekly performance data. Students can also be asked to come-up with the questions for the next week's survey, this way they are more likely to engage with the learning tool. Our primary criteria for creating the survey tool are to:

- Measure instructor performance over the time
- Measure course satisfaction over time
- Find ways to improve course design over the semesters

The sample surveys designed had a mix of questions for on-line, in-class and blended classes.

Links to the sample Surveys:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TSGFPLR>

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CBN9XW9>

Weakness of the survey is that people who do not like a topic may ignore the survey or not fill out the questionnaire properly. So the data may be biased towards those who have vested interest in the topic. Challenges of the survey is in creation of the questionnaire so that it can measure the things we want to measure and avoid pitfalls of known statistical techniques like measuring cause and effects properly.

As our paper demonstrates, online assessment tools can play an integral part in both formative and summative assessments. It is crucial to assess throughout the learning process and therefore tools like SurveyMonkey and Ourstory are beneficial. A record keeping system such as Excel is also necessary to provide feedback. As our learning in assessment continues to expand so will the plethora of tools. Be open-minded and flexible- two mantras of an online teacher!