

Create a Test

Description

As you know, a test is an instrument used to measure knowledge or learning of a specific set of material. Most tests have more than one type of question. Some of the questions test for quick-memory recall of small pieces of important information or the highlights of a particular topic, while others test for understanding of larger concepts and the ability to apply these concepts when relating them to other things. Creating your own test on a unit you have recently studied in class or a project you have completed is a great way to extend your learning and help you think more deeply about the topic.

Planning

1. Multiple Choice: Make up 8 multiple choice questions based on the information the test will cover. Ask yourself what you think your teacher would expect you to know in the way of simple facts about the topic. For example, a multiple choice question about weather is:

Which weather term describes both rain and snow?

- a. frontal system
- ☒ b. precipitation
- c. air mass
- d. humidity

2. Short Answer (fill-in-the-blank): Make up 6 short answer questions based on the same unit topic. For example: What type of cloud produces thunderstorms? (cumulonimbus)

3. Essay: Make up 2 essay questions based on the same topic. For example:

What happens when a cold front collides with a warm front? Why?

When a cold front collides with a warm front, the cold air mass pushes underneath the warm air mass. This often causes precipitation and sometimes storms. The reason the cold air mass slides under the warm air mass is that the cold air is more dense and heavy, and the two types of air do not mix.

4. Extra Credit: This can be whatever you want it to be. For example:

If it rained .65 inches on Sunday, .5 inches on Monday, .25 inches on Tuesday, 0 inches on Wednesday, 0 inches again on Thursday, .3 inches on Friday, and .75 inches on Saturday, what was the average rainfall for the week?

.35 inches

5. Answer Key: Create an answer key with the correct answers to all your test questions.

Assessing

1. When you have finished creating your test and the answer key, trade tests with another student in the class and take each other's tests. Then trade back and grade each other's tests. How did you do?
2. How did your classmate do on your test? Do you think your test was too hard or too easy?
3. If you had to do it again, what would you change about your test? Why?

Technology Connection

1. Create a crossword puzzle or word search using words and concepts from your research using <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com> See if your classmates can solve the puzzle.
2. Create an online test with true-false, multiple choice, essay, or all of these at <http://school.discovery.com/quizcenter/quizcenter.html>