



## What Is Formative Assessment?

Jim Popham's definition:

Formative assessment is a planned process in which assessment-elicited evidence of students' status is used by teachers to adjust their ongoing instructional procedures or by students to adjust their current learning-tactics (Popham, 2008, p. 6).

**In the quotations that follow, identify key words and phrases about formative assessment that are similar to Jim's. Do you see any differences? If so, what are they?**

Assessment for learning [formative assessment] is the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where the learners are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there (Assessment Reform Group, 2002, pp. 1-2).

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes (FAST SCASS, 2006).

Assessment for learning [formative assessment] is part of everyday practice by students, teachers, and peers that seeks, reflects upon, and responds to information from dialogue, demonstration, and observation in ways that enhance ongoing learning (Third International Conference on Assessment for Learning, 2009).

The process used by teachers and students to recognize and respond to student learning in order to enhance that learning, during the learning (Bell & Cowie, 2001, p. 536).

Formative assessment is a process that takes place continuously during the course of teaching and learning to provide teachers and students with feedback to close the gap between current learning and desired goals (Heritage, 2012)

**Now, discuss your selections with a shoulder partner.**