

How Will I Know What They're Really Learning?

Improving Instruction Through
Formative Assessment



thelearninghawk.com



What is your current method for knowing

**WHILE YOU ARE
TEACHING**

whether or not students are getting it?

BASED ON ALL THE HEAD TILTS,
MAYBE I'D BETTER EXPLAIN
THIS AGAIN...

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994

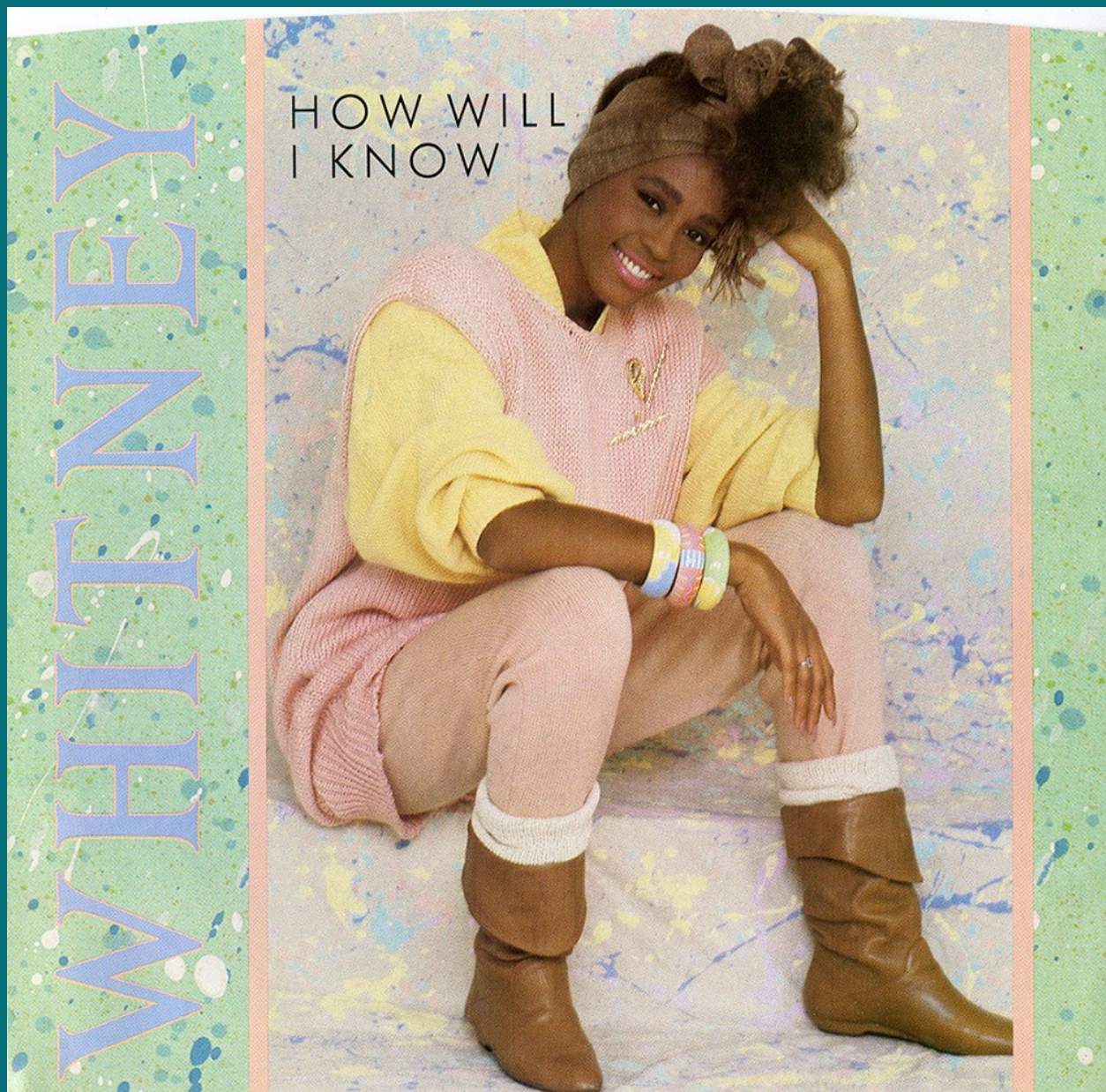


“How will I know?

Don't trust your feelings.

How will I know?

They can be deceiving.”



The Year I Taught Algebra IB

Me: I've never taught math before.

Administrator: If you can teach physics, you can teach Algebra I.

Me: I'm not sure if that's true, but I guess we'll find out.

What Do You Think I Was Doing Wrong?

Write it on your whiteboard.

Hold them up when you have an answer.

The
Illusion of
Competence

How I “Fixed It”

Daily Exit Ticket

Friday quizzes (Super low stakes)

What Is Formative Assessment?



“A teacher’s assessment activities while a student is learning.”

- Kevin Washburn

“Any activity that provides information about student learning and enables teachers to adapt teaching to meet student needs.”

- Dylan William

Informal

“Talented educators know that the opportunities for fine-grained analysis of student learning are all around us. Each time we host a discussion with students, examine a child’s writing, or listen closely to a question, there’s a chance to assess formatively.”

- Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey in *Checking for Understanding*

What Is Formative Assessment?

“Formative assessment is a planned, ongoing process used by all students and teachers during learning and teaching to elicit and use evidence of student learning to improve student understanding of intended disciplinary learning outcomes and support students to become self-directed learners.”

- Council of Chief State School Officers

Planned

What data do I need?

What is the essential thing students must understand before I move on?

Ongoing

Can't wait for a test

Multiple times per class period

Any hinge point

**Used by Both Students and Teachers
to Allow Course Correction**

You want them to know when they know.

**You want them to understand the
questions they need to ask.**

**You want to know if it is time to pause and
re-teach something.**

“Work Plan B into Plan A.”

- Dylan William

While planning your formative assessment, think about:

- Crafting your questions in such a way that students can't get the right by accident.**
 - Likely wrong answers to the questions.**
- What misconceptions might have led to those wrong answers.**
 - How you might reteach it to address those misconceptions.**

Quick Quiz: Whiteboards

**What are the
features in the
definition of
formative
assessment?**

Bonus 1:

**Keeps Them Engaged
and on Their Toes**

Bonus 2

**Tracking Progress
Motivates**

Bonus 3

**The joy of more
interaction**

Practical Formative Assessment Tools

(not a complete list)

Entrance Tickets / Bellwork

Exit Tickets

Cold Calling

Mini-Whiteboard Full Class Questions

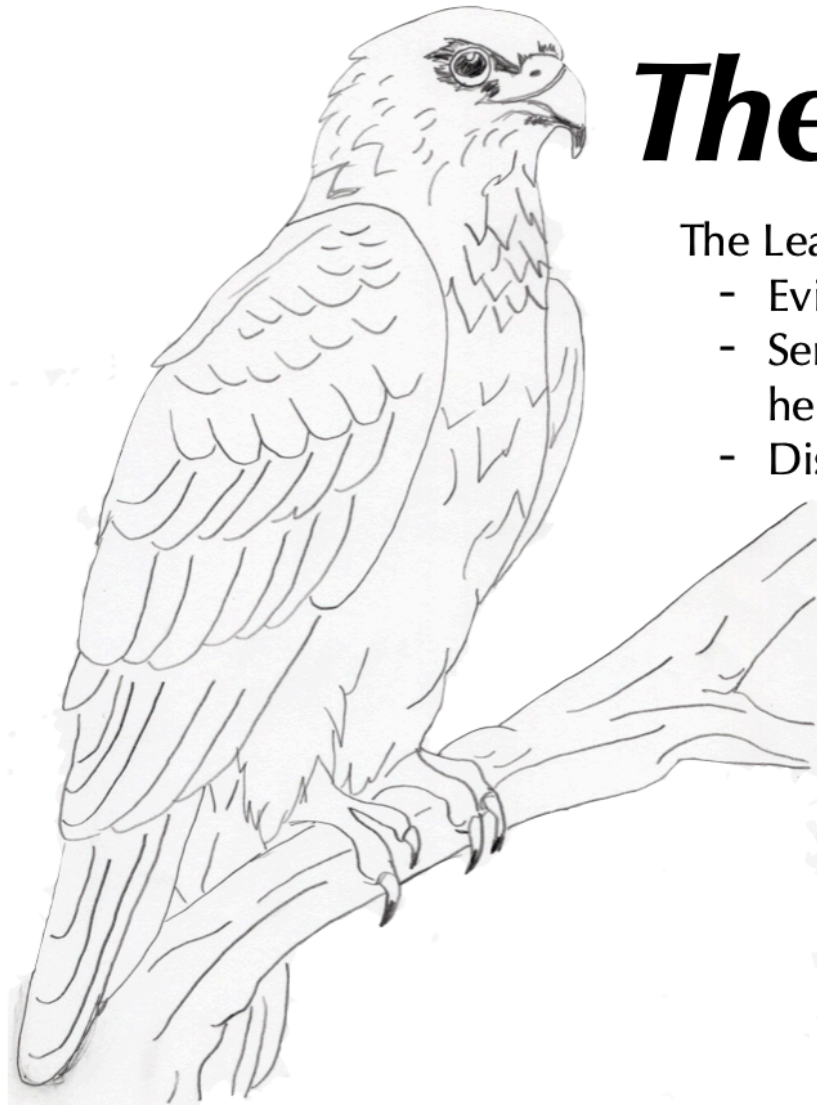
Digital Response Boards (Socrative, Padlet,
Slido)

Practice Problems

Short Review Games (Kahoot with 4-5 questions)

Low Stakes Quizzes

**Formative
assessment is NOT
meant to be
graded!**



The Learning Hawk

The Learning Hawk provides:

- Evidence-based professional development for teachers
- Seminars for parents of middle and high school students about how to help their children study effectively
- Discussions with students who would like to improve their study habits

**Contact beth@thelearninghawk.com
for scheduling and pricing.**

