

5. Assessment And Evaluation

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Criteria:

Best practices suggest that student achievement is improved by establishing high expectations, by encouraging participation in developing clear criteria and by providing constructive feedback as students move towards a definite goal.

In this context, teachers are encourage to involve students in a project- approach to learning by defining a clear goal (presentation of a heritage project), mutually generating specific criteria (research process, depth of study, content, display qualities, originality and creativity, etc.), and regularly monitoring each student's progress through the project process.

A Process Journal:

Teachers are encouraged to have students keep their own process journal in which they write at least weekly. A process journal will track a student's project process and record their questions, thoughts, feelings, etc. The journal should reflect on the various topics the student considered as a project, how and why they decided on their specific topic, how they narrowed or refined their topic, their frustration in finding resources and information, highlights of their search, how and why they decided to present their project in a particular medium, reflections on what they would do differently next time or changes they might make, etc.

Assessment:

Assessment is an ongoing instructional and data gathering activity that monitors a student's progress over time. In the project approach to learning, regular assessment is done in the context of asking students to reflect on what they are doing, what they are learning, how they are moving towards their goal, how they might do things differently, who they have talked with, etc. The focus is on how the student is engaged in the project process and encouraging them to reflect on what they are doing correctly and what they might have to change to make the process work better for them.

Evaluation:

Evaluation is a teacher's professional judgment, based on the variety of assessment data gathered, about how well a student has met the established criteria.

[Project Judging Form](#)