

Alternatives to Traditional Assessment

Summative assessment has traditionally been the standard pencil-and-paper test, but there are many other ways that teachers can check for evidence of learning. Sometimes other methods will let students do a better job of showing that they know something.

Here is a list of alternatives to the traditional unit test.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Written</u></p> <p>advertisement book review guide journal or diary logbook message newspaper song worksheet</p> <p>biography editorial instructions letter manual poem recipe story</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Visual</u></p> <p>blueprint cartoon collage flow chart drawing map photograph table</p> <p>bulletin board chart diagram display graph mural poster timeline</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Oral</u></p> <p>audio recording discussion panel discussion storytelling</p> <p>debate interview speech</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Kinesthetic</u></p> <p>creative movement dramatization experiment impersonation puppetry sculpture video</p> <p>dance role play game pantomime scrapbook skit</p>

Clearly the method you use to assess learning will vary by grade and subject. But teachers should be willing to try new methods once in a while. Your students may amaze you with the effort and creativity they demonstrate.

Elementary teachers, particularly in grade one, don't often use traditional tests anyway. Consider using one or more of the methods listed above to let your kids show what they know!