

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

Formative assessment plays a vital role in language learning. To select appropriate methods and techniques is one of the acutest issues. It is advisable to utilize effective technical apps as formative assessments. This article covers the information about valuable technical tools that are indispensable for formative assessments.

Key words: Google forms, Poll Everywhere, Socrative, Quizizz, Flipgrid, Kahoot, Quizlet.

Formative assessment refers to a wide range of techniques or methods that teachers use to check learners' knowledge and comprehension. Moreover, formative assessment allows teachers to identify learners' needs, wants, and lacks. Teachers can determine skills that students are struggling or difficulties they are facing. A number of applications can be utilized as formative assessment tools.

Google forms is a free software that helps teachers to design and conduct surveys during their lessons. Besides, it allows teachers to develop a wide range of test for formative assessment. It offers various types of questions:

- multiple choice;
- checkboxes;
- dropdown;
- short answer;
- paragraph;
- linear scale;
- multiple choice grid.

Moreover, Google offers effective tools for teaching and learning:

- Google Slides
- Google Sheets
- Google Docs
- Google Drawings
- Google Sites

Poll Everywhere is the mobile web interface or app that allows presenters and participants to present, manage, and respond to activities. It is convenient for formative assessment as it enables teachers to measure engagement, follow up on feedback, and uncover next steps. Furthermore, it can be utilized to quizzes and add polls. Teachers will be able to design numerous activities, like multiple-choice questions, word clouds, and open-ended questions. Every activity type encourages students to participate and helps teachers to gauge learners' knowledge and comprehension.

Socrative is a useful app for effective engagement and quick assessment. This tool allows teachers to monitor and evaluate learning. Moreover, educators will be able to deliver enjoyable and engaging interactions for students. Various activities can be used to engage learners. It offers different options:

- to launch a quiz;
- receive exit tickets;
- ask a quick question for instant feedback.

It is possible to create whatever type of activity that suits learners' needs, wants, and lacks. Teachers can run their activity anonymously, shuffle questions, and provide instant feedback. It is straightforward to create and download socrative quizzes. Most importantly, teachers can use socrative quizzes as many times as they need. Socrative quizzes allow teachers to assess their students with personalized content prepared in advance.

Quizziz is online software that allows finding and creating interesting quizzes, effective lessons, excellent presentations, and colorful flashcards. This software can be used in classes, group works, pre-test reviews, unit test, and exams. It enables teachers and students to be online simultaneously. Teachers will be able to use a quiz-style teaching and learning method where students are required to answer questions individually. Quizziz consists of two different application modes. One is to formulate a formative evaluation during real-time in the classroom. The other is to be set by teachers to students as an assignment.

Flipgrid is a program and website that enables learners to record short video responses. Videos are comments or responses that reflect a specific topic or suggestion. It should be noted that the students' answers on Flipgrid are public to the class so that all students in the class can see each other's answers. Certainly, teachers can customize moderation as well as the options for learners.

Some profound ideas for Flipgrid assignments may include:

- video reflections;
- two-minute presentations;
- reading reviews.

This tool is indispensable for promoting students speaking skills as they are required to record their oral responses. This app also enables to meet diverse learners' needs and wants. For example, some students are introverted and shy; therefore, they cannot interact with their peers during classroom activities. Such tech apps allow introverted learners to share their voices.¹

¹Cloete, A.L. (2017). Technology and education: Challenges and opportunities. HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies, 73(4). Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v73i4.4589ess>

Kahoot is an online game-based system that can be used by teachers in a real or virtual classroom to help educate students through quizzes. It is free and can help create a fun and social learning experience for students. It is straightforward to create, share and play engaging learning games and quizzes. Moreover, teachers can also encourage their students to create and share their own kahoots. Kahoot can be applied for formative assessment as it allows teachers to check their students' knowledge.

Quizlet is an online application that allows learners to learn a variety of topics via learning games. It enables teachers to train their learners via flashcards and tests. Quizlet is utilized to teach students new vocabulary. A set of terms can be studied with five different learning modes:

- Learn
- Flashcards
- Write
- Match
- Test.

Kahoot and Quizlet can be employed to create an engaging atmosphere in the lessons. Besides, they are applied to revise learning materials from the previous lessons.

Formative assessment can be utilized to assess students effectively. It is pivotal to note that “formative assessment can be used to help learners foster their competencies and skills in the process of learning”². Mentioned technical tools can be employed to promote formative assessment prudently. Certainly, lessons should be also based on the enhancement of skills and competences. The usage of technical tools allows students to develop their digital literacy skills as well. Izquierdo stated that “developing a learner’s digital literacy is vital since digital literacy can be defined as the ability which entails a number of cognitive skills”.³ All of these digital tools are compelling as it can promote collaboration as well as competition. Not only will teachers assess their students, but also they will develop their students’ language and digital literacy skills.

²Brown, D.H. (2010). *Language Assessment: Principles and Classroom Practices* (2nd Edition). White Plains, NY: Longman Pearson. ISBN: 9780138149314

³Izquierdo, E. (2011). *Digital literacy: What a 21st century EFL teacher should know*.

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