Needs Assessment
Heritage Language Learners

Understanding Assessment

A Guide for World Language Educators

Classroom and Students

What is the target/heritage language to be assessed?

What is the grade level of my students? How many students are in my class?

What is the type of class/program? (e.g., dual language, foreign language class, community-based program, etc.)

What are the language and cultural backgrounds of my students? (e.g., language varieties, dialects, type of exposure, etc.)

Are there any other classroom or student characteristics I should consider? (e.g., mixed classroom, dual language program, etc.)

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Needs Assessment

Purposes

What do I want to know about my students' language abilities?

What skills do I want to assess?

How will I use the test results? What decisions will be made based on the results?

Who are the different stakeholders involved? Who will receive the test results?

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Needs Assessment

Resources

What test administration formats are practical for my context? (e.g. individually or in a group, paper-based or computer-based, etc.)

Who is available to administer and score the assessment? What resources are available for training and preparation?

How much time can be allotted for administering and scoring the assessment?

How much funding is available for assessment? Are there other resources I might need access to?

What testing accommodations do I need to provide?

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