

Solving the Assessment Puzzle Piece by Piece
By Carolyn Coil and Dodie Merritt

Solving the Assessment Puzzle is the type of book classroom teachers relish. It not only breaks down a lot of the terminology associated with assessment, it discusses the contexts in which they can most effectively be used, and it models what the assessments should and could look like. Teachers can peruse this book and immediately implement some of these strategies and assessments in their classroom. The assessments discussed range from formal, sometimes mandated assessments to ways to implement informal and even formative assessments.

In accurately dealing with current trends in education, the book deals with standardized tests and finding ways to turn standardized testing to our advantage in the classroom. It also discusses and provides applicable suggestions for effective alternative assessments. Unless they've already begun implementing alternative assessments, many teachers can find this new trend daunting. This book makes alternative assessments very accessible, which will hopefully help both teachers and their students.

One of the most valuable sections is the section on rubrics. It breaks down form and function and discusses and models the wide-wide range of possibilities. This is the best place to be introduced to invaluable criteria cards – a must when creating a rubric. The rubrics the book offers range from simple to complex, cover most content areas and at one time or another apply to all grade levels. This is the treasure chest of immediately applicable assessment. The rubrics are easily adapted, especially with the help of the CD that comes with the book.

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