Auditing English: group activity

Collection: Assessment

Resource: Assessment audit

Approximate duration

45 minutes

Learning outcomes

To have undertaken a detailed 'audit' of assessment practice on a specific module, and, as a result, to have reconsidered the nature of the assessment strategy on that module.

Introduction

This activity has been designed for groups of lecturers who run modules and have a stake in those modules' assessment regimes. If you are leading a group of lecturers or postgraduates some of whom are not responsible for a module assessment regime, it will not be possible to run the activity.

The activity uses an 'audit tool' (a questionnaire) originally developed by the Higher Education Academy UK Centre for Bioscience. The questionnaire has been adapted and simplified for use in this activity. If any of the group members would like to see the original document, it can be found on the Bioscience Centre website.

Because assessment is such a crucial component in any degree course ('assessment drives learning' is the mantra one often hears), it is important that lecturers think systematically, from time to time, about the way in which assessment works on their modules. Working through this questionnaire will help participants to do that. Completing the questionnaire will involving 'marking' key elements in your module assessment out of 4. This may seem artificial, but it is worth persevering with, for, even

if participants disagree strongly with some of the views of assessment implied by the questionnaire, it should provoke them to think in detail about their module assessment regime and its fitness for purpose.

The activity

1. Download, print out and distribute to the group the assessment audit document (also found within this resource in Humbox).
2. Divide the group into pairs.
3. Ask everyone to choose a module they are currently teaching and to fill in the assessment audit document with reference to that module.
4. Ask each pair to discuss the results they have come up with, focusing on the following questions:
   o Has filling in the form made you aware of any features of the assessment on your module that you feel ought to be changed?
   o Is there anything you think should be changed about the audit document to make it more useful?
5. In a plenary session, call upon each pair to share with the whole group their answers to the two questions in step 4, above.

If you have access to a computer and a projector, you may like to edit the document with the group, making changes to the questions that are already there, adding new ones and deleting others.

Links & References

- English Subject Centre assessment area
- Higher Education Academy assessment area. Non-discipline specific materials on assessment.

Relationship to the Professional Standards Framework

- **Areas of Activity 3**: Assessment and giving feedback to learners
- **Core Knowledge 2:** Appropriate methods for teaching and learning in the subject area and at the level of the academic programme
- **Core Knowledge 5:** Methods for evaluating the effectiveness of teaching

- **Professional Values 1:** Respect for individual learners
- **Professional Values 3:** Commitment to the development of learning communities
- **Professional Values 4:** Commitment to encouraging participation in higher education, acknowledging diversity and promoting equality of opportunity

More information about the Professional Standards Framework can be obtained from the summary factsheet in the *Subject & Pedagogy* collection in HumBox.
http://humbox.ac.uk/2731/

Resources in the Assessment Collection

- Assessment: introduction to the collection
- Assessment audit: resource overview
    - Auditing English: individual activity
    - **Auditing English: group activity (*you are here)**
- Designing and running innovative assessments: resource overview
    - Creative assessments in Literature: outcomes, criteria: individual activity
    - Creative assessments in Literature: outcomes, criteria: group activity
- Assessment SWOT analysis: resource overview
    - SWOT analysis: individual activity
    - SWOT analysis: group activity
- Mix and match: resource overview
    - Matching assessment to outcome: individual activity
    - Matching assessment to outcome: group activity
- Creative assessment: resource overview
    - Creative criticism
- Feedback and marking strategies: resource overview
    - Marking exercise: individual activity
    - Marking exercise: group activity
- Computer-aided assessment: resource overview
    - Writing multiple-choice questionnaires: individual activity
    - Writing multiple-choice questionnaires: group activity

- What is assessment for? : resource overview
  - Balancing the interest groups: individual activity
  - Balancing the interest groups: group activity