

FIGURE 1.1
Characteristics of Formative and Summative Assessment

Formative Assessment (Assessment <i>for</i> Learning)	Summative Assessment (Assessment <i>of</i> Learning)
Purpose: To improve learning and achievement	Purpose: To measure or audit attainment
Carried out while learning is in progress—day to day, minute by minute.	Carried out from time to time to create snapshots of what has happened.
Focused on the learning process and the learning progress.	Focused on the products of learning.
Viewed as an integral part of the teaching-learning process.	Viewed as something separate, an activity performed after the teaching-learning cycle.
<i>Collaborative</i> —Teachers and students know where they are headed, understand the learning needs, and use assessment information as feedback to guide and adapt what they do to meet those needs.	<i>Teacher directed</i> —Teachers assign what the students must do and then evaluate how well they complete the assignment.
<i>Fluid</i> —An ongoing process influenced by student need and teacher feedback.	<i>Rigid</i> —An unchanging measure of what the student achieved.
Teachers and students adopt the role of intentional learners.	Teachers adopt the role of auditors and students assume the role of the audited.
Teachers and students use the evidence they gather to make adjustments for continuous improvement.	Teachers use the results to make final “success or failure” decisions about a relatively fixed set of instructional activities.

- Before a lesson on creating a family budget, a consumer science teacher states the goals for the lesson and asks the students to paraphrase the goals.
- In a high school English class, students use a rubric that they generated as a class to plan their essays, monitor their writing, and edit their drafts in order to meet the criteria for a successful essay.