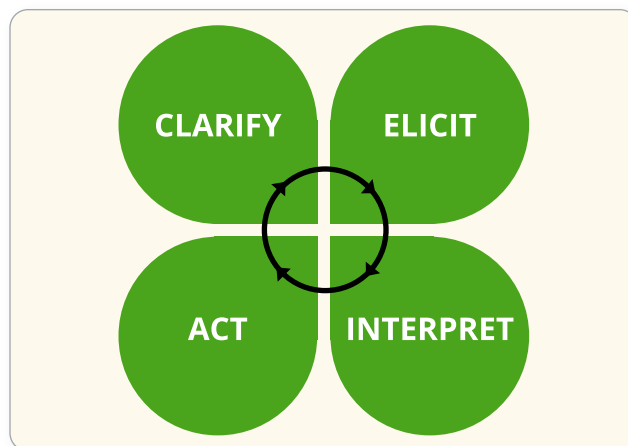


Understanding the Formative Assessment Process

The Formative Assessment Process is a deliberate process used by **teachers and students** during instruction that provides actionable feedback that is used to adjust ongoing **teaching and learning** strategies to improve students' attainment of curricular learning targets/goals.



Clarify

Determine **Learning Goals**, or what students will know by the end of the lesson. Goals describe “big ideas” or concepts and reflect academic standards. Learning goals are written in student-friendly language, beginning with, “I understand...”

Establish **Success Criteria**, or the evidence teachers and students use to determine how students are progressing toward learning goals. They are also written in student-friendly language, beginning with, “I can...”

Elicit

Engage in a learning event or activity that prompts and generates **evidence of learning**. Evidence should be tightly aligned to the learning goals and guided by success criteria.

Consider student needs, interests, and learning styles when deciding how to elicit evidence so that students can **demonstrate their understanding** in different ways to meet the success criteria. Use multiple sources of evidence to draw accurate conclusions about student learning.

Interpret

Review evidence to determine students' progress toward learning goals and success criteria. Interpreting is about using evidence to **identify the gap** between where students are and where they need to be. Students can analyze evidence of their own learning and discuss with teachers and peers.

Interpreting evidence is not a single event, but part of an ongoing process throughout instruction.

Act

Teachers determine and initiate appropriate **instructional next steps**. These may not be the same for all students and must take into consideration each student's readiness, interests, and learning preferences.

Students receive feedback that is specific about what they need to do next in the learning process.

For more information, check out the [formative assessment process video](#) on the Tools for Teachers website.