

The In's & Out's of EXIT TICKETS

As educators, it is essential that we check our students' understanding along the way. Formative assessments help us to monitor student learning so that we can adjust our teaching practices to improve student success. Formative assessments can be verbal (i.e. students responding to questions), silent signals (i.e. thumbs up and thumbs down), or written (i.e. quick writes or journal writing). Exit tickets are one type of formative assessment educators can use to check for student understanding.

Depending on your purpose, exit tickets can assist you in determining ...

- What students already know about a topic
- What students learned from a specific lesson
- What misconceptions individual students have about a specific skill or concept
- What next steps are required for individual students, groups of students, or the entire class

If you are thinking, "How can I get started with exit tickets?" consider the following three questions:

- 1. What do you want to find out about your students' understanding at the conclusion of the lesson?**
- 2. How much time do you want to allocate for your students to complete the exit ticket?**
- 3. What format do you want to use for the exit ticket?**

An effective strategy to check for understanding is to provide each student with a paper exit ticket. When creating effective paper exit tickets, I consider the following to be 3 critical components:

- 1. What does the student know?** In this section students respond to a given question or statement. This is a place for students to show their work.
- 2. What does the student think he/she knows?** In this section students rate how well they understood the learning goal. This is a section for students to reflect on their own learning.
- 3. What does the student's work actually show?** In this section the teacher takes notes on the student's response. This is a place for teachers to reflect. Did the student meet the learning goal? Does this student have any misconceptions? Does the student's perception of what he/she knows match what he/she can do?

Exit tickets are powerful tools that can be used to:

- drive discussions during student conferences
- assist with planning your small group instruction and/or centers
- provide parents with critical information during conferences
- provide a quick lesson closure

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As you become more comfortable using exit tickets in your classroom, notice the difference they make on how you deliver and modify instruction to meet the needs of your students.