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Administering the Pre-Lesson Assessment

Before you hand the pre-lesson assessment to students it is important that you have *Framed* the lesson for students and that they understand the following:

- Students must work individually, without help from other students or their teacher.
- Student work will not be graded but will be used to reveal the issues that are impeding student learning and higher test scores.
- Students should expect to think carefully about the questions because it is likely that they will be seeing this type of question for the first time.
- Students will have an opportunity to revisit their initial work after the lesson.

Give all instructions before handing out the assessment; do not talk or give instructions as you hand it out. As soon as students get the pre-lesson assessment they should begin work.

Allow approximately 15-20 minutes for students to complete the assessment in class. It is important that it is completed in class rather than for homework, to gather reliable data on student understanding.

It is critical that the teacher does not help students—even the weakest students. Each student should attempt this portion individually and without help so that reliable data can be gathered about student learning.

The assessment is designed to reveal student issues. You should expect that they will have difficulty with the work. It is also important for teachers not to become discouraged when it appears that students are not going to do as well as expected.

After students complete the pre-lesson assessment the teacher should collect it, making sure that each student's name is on the paper.

It is important that the pre-lesson assessment is *not* graded, because it is extremely unfair to grade a test that is designed to reveal what students do not know. If this were to be graded then it ought to have been designed to give students the opportunity to show what they know and can do rather than designed to reveal the issues that are disrupting student learning.