Why Self-Assessment is Important and How to Do It Right

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Purposes

- Why should students self-assess?
- How do we use LinguaFolio?
- What resources are available to help me?
Reasons for student self-assessment

- Individual student level
  - Agency
  - Reflection

- Classroom level
  - Washback

- Program level
  - Communication
  - Outcomes
How can self-assessment benefit students?

Agency

- Self-assessment puts the student in the driver’s seat!
- The student has control over what s/he puts into the assessment.
- Self-assessment provides an opportunity for student empowerment.
How can self-assessment benefit students?

Reflection

Students think about:

- what they have learned
- how well they have learned it
- how what they have learned fits together
- where they can go from here
How can self-assessment benefit the language classroom?

- **Washback**
  
  refers to the intended or unintended results of an assessment on student behavior
After reflecting, students may decide to change behavior to improve language learning

Gives student a tool to communicate with instructors about learning goals

Instructors can work with students to reflect on what they have learned

Instructors have a clear indication of where students think they are in the learning process which can help focus teaching
How can self-assessment benefit the language program?

- Communication within the program
- Communicating successful outcomes to funders
Self-assessment

- provides opportunity for students to compare their experiences with each other
- allows students to tell their parents or friends about what they can do with the language
- presents a chance for students, instructors, and administrators to share goals with shared language
Communicating success to funders

- Results of self-assessment may be the best way to communicate outcomes for short-term language programs.
- Some research indicates an alignment between student self-assessment and objective measures.
I am....

- a starter in volleyball
- medium at baseball
- a million thumbs up at basketball
- infinity thumbs up at football

(John, age 9)
How do we use LinguaFolio?

- Background on LinguaFolio
- Perks of LinguaFolio Online
- Incorporating LinguaFolio into your curriculum
- Getting set up to use LinguaFolio for STARTALK
- Resources on using LinguaFolio
What is LinguaFolio?

LinguaFolio is a....

- standards-based
- self-directed
- *formative assessment* tool

THAT

- records ongoing progress in language learning
- includes student-selected evidence of proficiency
- provides a comprehensive view of student performance
LinguaFolio History

2001 • Council of Europe launched European Language Portfolio

2003 • NCSSFL developed LinguaFolio
   • Based on ACTFL Guidelines & National FL Standards

2005 • 5-state pilot in NC, SC, VA, GA, KY
   • Adapted for other states also

2008 • CASLS developed LinguaFolio Online
   • Piloted in STARTALK programs

2011 • Ongoing development of new features
   • LinguaFolio Network: new resource site
Perks of LinguaFolio Online

- Tells a student’s language story
- Evidence of language proficiency
- Data collection for research
- Incorporates key features of formative assessment
  
  (Black & Wiliam, 1998b)
  
  - Teachers make adjustments to teaching and learning in response to assessment evidence
  - Students receive feedback about their learning with advice on how they can improve
  - Students participate in the process through self-assessment
LinguaFolio and Your Curriculum

Backwards Design

(Wiggins & McTighe, 1998)

**Identify Desired Results**
- What are the program goals and expected student outcomes?

**Determine Acceptable Evidence**
- How will you know that students have met the goals?
- What “performances” will provide such evidence?

**Plan Learning Experiences and Instruction**
- What specific knowledge and skills will students need to achieve these outcomes?
- What activities will help students learn the specific knowledge and skills?
Getting Set Up with LinguaFolio

- Pre-program preparation
  - Register for LinguaFolio Online accounts
  - Determine links between CanDo Statements and program goals

- Getting Started: Introduce LFO to students
  - Discuss program goals with students
  - LFO: Registration, biography, baseline CanDo data

- During the Program
  - Refer often to program goals/CanDo Statements
  - Schedule time to update LFO periodically, including final session
Resources on LinguaFolio

LinguaFolio Network

http://lfonetwork.uoregon.edu/survey/

- Tutorials
- Research
- Community

More Questions?

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