



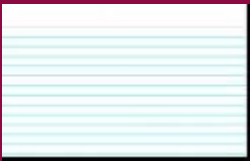
Outcomes
Assessment
Committee 1

CATs: Classroom Assessment Techniques

Live, Learn and
Thrive.

Pack of 100
index cards?

\$1.38



Finding out
what students
are learning
while earning a
chance to win
one of two
iPods?

Priceless



Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) are a collection of tools that help “individual college teachers obtain useful feedback on what, how much, and how well their students are learning” (Angelo & Cross, 1993, p. 3). Detailed instructions for dozens of different CATs are available in Angelo and Cross’ book, as well as on the web (see links below).

The Minute Paper – One Versatile CAT

To use this technique, the instructor ends class two or three minutes early and asks students to respond to the following two questions:

1. What was the most important thing you learned during this class?
2. What important question remains unanswered?

Students respond on index cards or on a half-sheet of scrap paper.

Advantages

- Instructors can collect and use the information quickly and easily.
- Beyond simple recall, students evaluate relative importance of the information and self-assess gaps in their understanding.
- Can be used at the beginning or end of a class period.
- Works well in a variety of settings (e.g., large classes, labs, lectures, discussions and online courses).

Variations

Ask students to:

- answer just one of the two questions.
- describe the most unclear point in the _____ (lecture, reading, etc.).
- make a more specific judgment (e.g., what was the best example, the most convincing argument or counterargument, the most disturbing idea, the most vivid image, the most surprising information, etc.).
- discuss their responses in pairs or small groups.

Want to learn some other CATs? Check out these links:

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/resources/teaching_resources/assessment/cats.htm

<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/teaching/cat.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~teaching/ourservices/assess/samplecats.shtml>

Angelo, T. A., and Cross, K. P. (2003) *Classroom Assessment Techniques: A handbook for college teachers* (2nd Ed.). Jossey-Bass: San Francisco.



I tried a CAT! Please enter me in the drawing.*

What did you do?

What did you conclude about students' learning?

What (if anything) will you change based on your conclusion?

Need some help? Join us at the Teaching Academy on March 3 at 2:00pm for a session on CATs (register at <http://www.teaching.nmsu.edu/>)

*Drawing will be held on March 12, 2010 at 2:00pm in the Teaching Academy. Entrants need not be present to win. Multiple entries are welcome if each entry uses a different CAT or a different class. Entries must be *received* no later than March 10, 2010.

Print & complete this page and send to:

OAC1, MSC 3445, NMSU, PO Box 30001, Las Cruces, NM 88003

Your Name: _____ Your Campus _____

Department: _____ MSC: _____

Campus Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course Number & Title: _____ Number of students: _____

Form available at <http://irpoa.nmsu.edu/OutcomesAssessment/AcademicAchievement.html>