



How to Improve Learning with Immediate Test Results

by Steven McNamara, Ed.D., TFS Partner Author

In most classes where tests are used as a method to assess learning, teachers grade the tests after the class period is over, and then the tests are returned and reviewed.

It has been shown in studies that a significant amount of information is lost from memory within days of learning it, if the information is not reviewed. To help our students, then, it would be ideal to review test results immediately after the test is completed.

Here is a simple solution that allows students to receive immediate post-test feedback from multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank/definition tests. Design the length of the test so that there is a block of open time after the test and before the end of the class period. Use a separate answer sheet along with a separate test question sheet. Have students fill in their answers on both the answer sheet and the question sheet.

Make sure their name is on both papers. Collect the answer sheet as the official record of the students' tests. Review the test with the students, who each have their own question sheet with their answers marked. In this way, students will receive immediate feedback on their performance, and they can see where they need help with their learning of the material.

