Formative Assessment Techniques

TO EMPLOY STUDENTS AS LEARNING RESOURCES FOR EACH OTHER

Error Classification

Materials

- Students' assignments in which errors have been underlined by the teacher.

Application of this technique involves students in assessing each other's work. Therefore it should be used only when evaluating formative tasks. Peer assessment is for helping students improve their skills. Evaluation of summative work is the teacher's purview.

Error classification works best with tasks in which errors can be classified by type and sorted into categories.

Photograph provided by Microsoft

Procedure

The teacher collects her students' work and, using a pencil, underlines any errors, then returns the assignments to the students. After classifying the errors, each student meets with a peer having reciprocal strengths who helps correct the errors.

A d a p t e d f r o m :

Embedded Assessment

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Example:

An English language teacher reads the argumentation papers he assigned his students. As he reads, he underlines grammatical errors in the students' writing. He then returns the papers to the students. Using the classifications previously identified by the class (for example, run-on sentences, subject/verb agreement, pronoun errors) the students classify their mistakes. After identifying their weakest and strongest areas, the students each find a peer with complimentary strengths to help them revise their work.