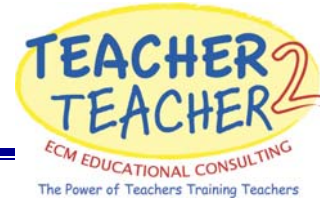


# Short-Cycle Assessments, Beyond the Basics



## *What is it?*

Formative assessments, and especially short-cycle assessments, are hot topics today. Many educators have already integrated them into their day-to-day curriculums. This



seminar, *Short-Cycle Assessments – Beyond the Basics*, is for those educators. *Beyond the Basics* will help you to refine the short-cycle assessment process already in place in your school or district. You’ll learn how to make sure your assessments have quality questions, clearly aligned to the content standards. In addition, you will go further into the analysis of the data from these assessments, and deeper into the instructional implications from the data. If you want to make your short-cycle assessments better, or if the process isn’t working the way you want it to, this session is for you.

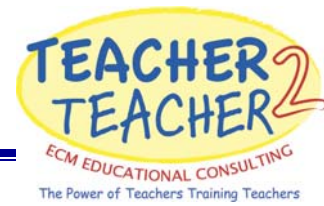
## *Why do I need it?*

“Doing” short-cycle assessments without the depth of knowledge required to implement and analyze them is like taking a driving course without actually getting in the car! In order to implement short-cycle assessments so that they impact student achievement, you must understand what good assessment questions look like and what constitutes good teaching practices. You also need clear knowledge of what it means to analyze the data – and most importantly, what to do about the data as far as instruction goes.

You need to know what questions to ask, how to audit your current assessments and above all, how to teach the content standards so students actually learn what they need to know in order to be successful on the short-cycle assessments and after that on the high stakes test. If you’re a teacher, curriculum coordinator or principal, it’s important for you to study and improve your short-cycle assessments on a regular basis. This session will provide the steps to get this accomplished.



## Short-Cycle Assessments, Beyond the Basics -continued-



### *Tell me more about what I'll learn.*

You'll increase your knowledge about critical thinking skills and Bloom's Taxonomy as you practice writing higher level questions. In addition, you'll learn simple strategies for teaching higher level critical thinking skills daily in the classroom. You will discover simple ways to determine the validity and reliability of your assessments by examining



how the questions assess the grade level indicators. We'll explore how to standardize your answer key so all students are graded the same, and sample anchor answers will be provided. You'll find out how to formulate questions based on the data you receive from your short-cycle assessments, which will lead to understanding the need for instructional changes. Finally, you'll learn how to differentiate your instruction based on the data using easy-to-follow strategies.

### *You'll leave this seminar knowing . . .*

- 1) what a quality question on a short-cycle assessment looks like.
- 2) how to write questions, or "tweak" existing questions, to make them more compatible with the grade level indicators.
- 3) more about Bloom's Taxonomy and how to develop higher level critical thinking skills in your classroom.
- 4) how to develop an answer key that grades all students consistently.
- 5) how to look at the data compiled from short-cycle assessments so you get the most out of it.
- 6) how to design instruction to reflect the data.
- 7) how to look at your classroom assessments and check them for reliability and validity.



In addition, we'll help you develop an Action Plan showing how you can take the information learned in this session and apply it into your classroom, school, and/or district.

Register for Short-Cycle Assessments, Beyond the Basics -

<http://teacher2teacher.info/register.htm>

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