HOW CAN I CHOOSE A GOOD ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE TO MEASURE UNDERSTANDING?

Materials Needed:
- Paper and pencil or a computer

A. What follows are several learning performances that might be contained in a typical elementary or middle school curriculum. Form a team of three students. Read each learning performance and decide what would be the most beneficial ways to measure whether students have gained understanding of the topic. Keep in mind that good assessment should:
   1. Be responsive to context.
   2. Be a continuous process embedded in instruction.
   3. Be multidimensional.
   4. Engage students in the assessment process.
   5. Be valid and reliable.
   6. Match today's educational goals.
   7. Accommodate cultural diversity.
   8. Be consistent with cognitive learning theory.
   9. Measure meaningful understanding.

Learning Performances
- After investigating simple machines, each student will show how machines help us do work.

- After investigating what animals need to eat, each student will be able to distinguish between a consumer and a producer.
- After investigating what types of trees are in our environment, each student will be able to identify two types of trees.
- After investigating where garbage goes, each student will be able to tell why it is important to recycle.

B. As a team, develop a lesson to teach one of the learning performances. Develop two different ways of assessing the objective after you have taught it. Teach the lesson to another team in your class and try the two different methods of assessment.

C. Ask the team you taught which method of assessment best measured what they learned. How do that team's beliefs about good assessment techniques compare to yours?

D. Record your ideas in your portfolio.