

Great Performances: Creating Classroom-Based Assessment Tasks (2nd Edition)

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Summary:

“What grade did you give me?” students often ask teachers, as if teachers randomly assign grades. Too many students do not understand how their academic performance in the classroom corresponds with various grades. Improving students' understanding of what their teachers expect them to do, how well they should be able to do it, and how they should go about accomplishing it is what this book is all about. Lewin and Shoemaker show you how to teach rich, integrated, thematic units of instruction where students grapple with meaty conceptual ideas and use the processes of reading, writing, problem solving and investigation.

The authors share what they've learned about developing and assessing powerful performance tasks – ranging from short and specific to lengthy and substantive. Their focus is on the practical, the doable. You can learn from their successes as well as their mistakes.

The authors discuss a four-step approach for teaching students how to acquire content knowledge – labelled “Info In” – and examine four “Info Out” modes through which students can make their content understanding explicit for evaluation purposes. *Great Performances* is filled with highly motivating examples of student projects as well as effective assessment tools that teachers can adapt for their own classrooms.

Supporting Resources:

- *Checking for Understanding: Formative Assessment Techniques for Your Classroom* (107023)
- *How to Give Effective Feedback to Your Students* (108019)
- *Transformative Assessment* (108018)
- *Understanding by Design (2nd edition)* (103055)

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