

Student Affairs Assessment Quickie: Think Improvement not Duress

While it is true that the national pressure for assessment of student learning in higher education is politically motivated, it is also true that assessment, done right, can improve our students' learning. We in academia are being offered the chance to develop and control the assessment process within our departments, colleges, and universities. However, if we do not do it, someone else will do it for us, and we will almost assuredly not like the result. At this point, regional accreditation agencies are insisting that we demonstrate good assessment practices. But we would be wise to shift the dynamic from ***assessment under duress to assessment for improvement***. Learn to crawl before you walk; walk before you try to run.

Excerpt from "Assessment Advice for Beginners" by Kenneth J. Campbell – University of Delaware