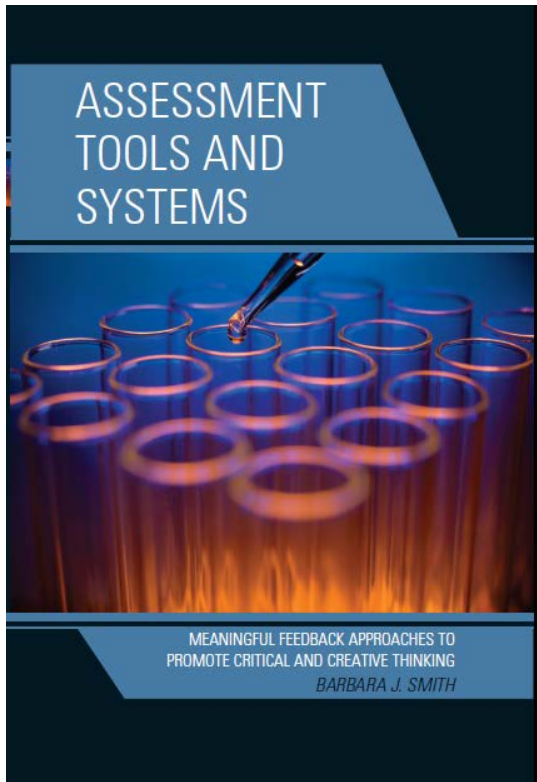


Assessment Tools and Systems

Meaningful Feedback Approaches to Promote Critical and Creative Thinking

Barbara J. Smith



“When so few educators really comprehend assessment and evaluation, this book provides essential information.”

— **Jackie Delong, PhD, International mentor, professor, and retired superintendent**

“Hot dog! A gem of a romp thought the ins and outs of education assessment. Plenty of great ideas to think about—on all aspects of education assessment, and their ‘what if’ alternatives. Time to ‘Test the Test Tubes’!”— **Michael Fullan, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto; International Consultant**

“*Assessment Tools and Systems* presents a compelling, coherent, and well documented argument against the assessment practices that create a flawed perception of what we know and, most importantly, what students and teachers know about measures of performance. Dr. Smith skillfully leads us from the problems to some of the most imaginative possibilities. Finally, she challenges us to take a pause, refresh our thinking, and critically consider some bold actions. This book interrupts the stance of passive silence that protects the status quo.”— **Bena Kallick, co-founder and co-director, Institute for Habits of Mind**

Feedback matters for everyone committed to school improvement. Rather than tweaking flawed assessment tools, it is time to consider developing more meaningful feedback systems the impact the critical masses that make up the school community. Cultivating new assessment approaches for students, staff, as well as non-instructional staff, teacher-leaders, principals, superintendents, trustees and grant/philanthropic funders, can lead to remarkable change. The goal of learning for students should not be separate or secondary to performing well on standardized tests. Implementing feedback systems that engage and prompt critical and creative thinking should matter more in today’s schools. Assessment tools that explicitly align with expectations not only create a fair playing field, but they can enhance deep learning. *Assessment Tools and Systems: Meaningful Feedback Approaches to Promote Critical and Creative Thinking* presents a comprehensive compilation of constructive assessment choices grounded in educational research that emerged through 60 years of experiences as a student, teacher, principal, teacher educator, consultant, school founder, school trustee and educational philanthropist.

Barbara J. Smith is an innovative educator who has been involved in education for over four decades as a teacher, principal, teacher educator, school founder, and board member in public, international, independent and charter schools. As a curriculum and school designer focused on critical and creative thinking, Smith is committed to improving feedback tools and systems in schools around the world.

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