

Best of Times, Worst of TimesAudience: ***K-12 Teachers, Principals***Time: ***20 minutes*****PROCEDURES**

- 1) The PowerPoint presentation, *Best of Times, Worst of Times*, provides directions for guiding this activity. Using the *Think-Pair-Share* strategy, ask participants to “Think about your assessment experiences, either ones that you have created or ones that you have experienced.” In pairs, participants share those experiences and consider which ones are examples of *the best* and which are examples of *the worst*.
- 2) Individuals share their experiences with the whole group and responses are recorded on a chart projected on the screen or on chart paper. Divide the chart paper or a MS Word document (to be projected on the screen) into two columns for recording both positive and negative experiences. Major concepts or themes stated in the comments are recorded.
- 3) A second option is to use the *Gallery Walk* strategy. Place participants in small groups (four to five participants per group) and have them share and record their positive and negative experiences on chart paper. Ask one member of the group to post their chart on the wall and stand beside it to provide clarification as groups tour the room.
- 4) The discussion guide “*Best of Times, Worst of Times*” may be used to probe further and deepen the conversation.

COMMENTS TO FACILITATOR

A more in-depth discussion on assessment will follow in Module IV: Interpreting and Using Item Analysis Data.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Participants will recognize that an effective and comprehensive assessment system measures students’ performance and progress toward the academic content standards and is comprised of state, local and classroom-level assessments.

DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory activity designed to get participants comfortable with the topic of assessment.

In small groups, participants share personal experiences with assessment, providing both positive and negative examples. After sharing within their groups, participants brainstorm what elements of each experience made it either positive or negative and identify commonalities. The small groups share their findings with the whole group. The facilitator leads a discussion to help uncover similarities between group responses.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- *Best of Times, Worst of Times* discussion guide
- Chart paper / markers
- PowerPoint presentation: *Best of Times*
- Computer, video projector, screen

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Record positive and negative experiences using a transparency and overhead projector.

Participants record experiences on Post-it notes and place them on chart paper, divided into two columns labeled positive and negative. Follow up by sharing discussions on guiding questions.

NOTES