



Physical Science Assessment Example

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Plan

- SLO to Assess:
 - SLO #8: Demonstrate an ability to communicate complex course concepts effectively in writing.
- Assessment Tool:
 - Final Exam free response question

Assess

- **Question:** Imagine a scenario in the near future (next 10-30 years) where fission and fusion are common energy sources. In the space provided below, write 3 paragraphs that discuss the impact of these energy sources on society as a whole. In your first paragraph, you should solely focus on advantages of fission and fusion energy sources. In your second paragraph, you should solely focus on disadvantages. In your third paragraph, give a summative opinion on the net effect in society—positive or negative—and support your reasoning.
- **Rubric:**
 - Exceeded: 90% or better
 - Met: Less than 90% but greater than or equal to 70%
 - Did Not Meet: Less than 70%

Assess cont'd

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Score on Prompt	Didn't Show					
2	10	0					
3	0	0					
4	10	0					
5	10	0			Exceeded:	22	57.9%
6	10				Met:	4	10.5%
7	10				Didn't Meet:	12	31.6%
8	6				N/A	4	
9	3						
10	7						
11	10						

Reflect

- More students exceeded compared to met.
 - Unexpected because of difficulty of prompt, but students did really well!
- 5 of 12 “Didn’t Meet” students simply didn’t answer the question!
 - Large variation doesn’t conclude success.

Refine

- Next time the course is taught (Spring 2018):
 - Use same tool and question to verify success rate
 - Encourage students to write *something*
 - Switch prompt from back to front of exam?