Example of Assessment – Keep it Simple

Assessment

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Art 298 “Writing in Art History” Assessment

• Art 298 – new course recently developed.
• How to measure effectiveness of course?
• Initial “undirected” short 20 minute writing assignment administered first day of class
• Same assignment administered last week of course and still “undirected”
• Summative (value added) assessment
Botticelli  *Birth of Venus*  c.1482 Tempera on canvas  5’8”x 9’1”
RUBRIC – Outcomes Measured

• Describes content using art specific vocabulary – Visual Analysis and Form
• Demonstrates critical thinking by analyzing meaning – Content
• Constructs a coherent essay – thesis and supportive arguments that demonstrates logical thinking and process
• Identifies artist, period or style – the image is a well known art work
RESULTS

- 11 student samples were collected
- Possible score 10
- Average score initial writing - 4.818
- Average score second writing – 6.727

- NB These are low stakes (no grade) assignments
FOLLOW UP

• Two sections of Art 298 currently (Fall 2015) being assessed with same instrument to confirm effectiveness rating of Spring 2015 assessment

• Lower scores would indicate a move to formative assessment
• Simple assessment tools like this readily adaptable to most disciplines
• Summative assessment seems to be a quick method to identify weaknesses

• As an extra bonus, short writing assessment instruments support the Quality Initiative.