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Understanding the difference: Quiz, Survey, and Self-Assessment

Brightspace offers three very similar tools for assessment: Quizzes, Surveys, and Self-Assessment. This guide explains the difference between the three, so you can choose the best option for your objective.

- A **Quiz** provides students with a score. Quizzes can be linked to the gradebook to affect the final grade, but are not required to be. This tool is commonly used for summative assessment (i.e. quizzes, tests, exams).
- **Surveys** are not graded or scored, but do provide results to the instructor. Survey results can be viewed and downloaded as needed. Surveys can be anonymous.
- A **Self-assessment** is solely for the purpose of the student to assess their understanding of the content. Instructors cannot view the results of a self-assessment, but they are able to see who has taken the self-assessment.

See the chart on the next page for more information regarding these tools, and some useful case studies.



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Figure 1

	Quizzes	Surveys	Self-Assessments
Feedback for learner	Feedback is released based on setup of quiz by instructor, may not be instant	Feedback is released after completion in the form of a report	Feedback is instantaneous after answering question
Reporting for learner/instructor	Reporting for Instructors – yes, they can see summative feedback on scores and particular answers	Reporting for Instructors – yes, reports are generated, and can be done so anonymously.	Reporting for Instructors – yes, but limited to who has taken SA and for time spent
Use Cases	Formative/Summative – ideally suited for summative assessment; with formative assessment, the tool takes too many clicks	Ice breaker to get learners to access previous knowledge of a topic	Diagnostic – to help gauge learner retention midway through topic
Use Cases	Pre-Assessment – Use the quiz tool to act as a diagnostic before the course begins. Set up release conditions to provide content that learners need based on their answers.	Diagnostic – to help gauge learner retention midway through topic	Self-Awareness tool – Learners can test themselves without the pressure of a graded item. They are allowed to make mistakes
Use Cases	Acknowledgment – Use the quiz tool as a form for agreeing to criteria in your course. “Check here to confirm you won’t cheat.”	Class Perception – builds a community of learning, as cohort can see opinions of other learners	Case Studies – Use the power of storytelling to elicit answers to demonstrate new knowledge!
Use Cases		Course/Instructor Feedback – great for getting feedback on how a course was perceived	Ask your virtual tutor! – Use self-assessments to bounce ideas off of, and to act as your personal tutor
Use Cases			Pre-Assessment – Inspire students to engage with class material by seeing how much they already know, and convey the course objectives simultaneously

Note: This chart describes features and use cases for the three tools: quizzes, surveys, and self-assessments. From D2L. (2018, March 24). *Deciding Between Using Quizzes, Surveys, or Self-Assessments*. Retrieved October 13, 2021, from <https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Deciding-Between-Using-Quizzes-Surveys-or-Self-Assessments>.