

5 Ways of Gathering Data

Artifacts of Learning

- Student Work: It almost always makes sense to look directly at student work both in the short-term and the long-term.
- Test Scores: For many communities, test scores carry weight, so it's important that scores improve. However, because they take a long time to process, test scores don't support short cycles of design, prototyping, assessment and iteration.

Subjective Impressions

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Surveys

Power Tips!

- During interviews or surveys, start from open ended questions and proceed to more narrow and focused ones.
 - "How connected do you feel to your child's school?"
 - "What are some of the ways that you find out about what's happening in your child's classroom?"
 - "How much are you learning about your child's classroom from the teacher blog?"
- Don't just ask people who are closest to you. You might end up with biased findings. Use randomization to get a diversity of opinions and perspectives.
- Don't forget that your colleagues have all kinds of good ideas about how to do assessment well. The challenge is to take those ideas and get started!

