

# Categories of CATs

1. Assessing Course Related Knowledge And Skills
2. Assessing Learner Attitudes, Values, and Self-Awareness
3. Assessing Learner Reactions to Instruction

## Examples of CATs in each Category

*The following examples of CATs are modified from: Angelo, T.A., and Cross, K.P. Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Teachers. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1993.*

### Assessing Course Related Knowledge And Skills

CAT	Description
■ Application Cards	After teaching about an important theory, principle, or procedure, ask students to write down at least one real-world application for what they have just learned to see how well they can transfer their learning.
■ Background knowledge probe	Ask students a series of questions about a new topic to assess what they already know and to determine a starting point for new instruction.
■ Categorizing Grid	Give students a grid containing two or three main categories plus a scrambled list of terms and have them sort the terms into the categories.
■ Concept Maps	Direct students to draw or diagram the mental connections between a major lecture concept and other concepts they know. This helps students to see connections.
■ Direct Paraphrasing	Ask students to write a "translation" of something they have just learned to assess their ability to transfer concepts.
■ Documented Problem Solutions	Ask students to document the steps they take in solving a problem. Students will gain more awareness of and control of their problem solving routines.
■ Focused Listing	Give students a main term or concept and ask them to generate all the related terms they can think of. Practicing this technique can help students learn to focus attention and improve recall.
■ Muddiest Point	Have students write what they find least clear or most confusing about a particular lesson or topic. ❖ "What point is confusing to you?"
■ One Minute Paper	During the last few minutes of the class period, ask students to answer on a half-sheet of paper: ❖ "What is the most important point you learned today?"