

***NELMS Formative Assessment: Checking for Understanding Institute***  
***Course***  
***2009-2010***

**Plymouth State University of the University System of NH**

Graduate Credit is earned through Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. It is an accredited institution offering both a Masters Degree and Advanced Degrees in Education.

**Title: Formative Assessment: Checking for Understanding Institute**

**Graduate Credits: 2.0**

**Semester:** Summer 2009, Spring 2010

**Professor:** Dr. Robert C. Spear

**Course Description:**

This course is designed for participating middle level educators who want to develop tools to more effectively teach young adolescents. Participants will have certain latitude to investigate topics and strategies that will have the greatest individual meaning. Practical, meaningful and appropriate learning practices are the foundations of the courses.

**Evaluation:**

**Two Credits - Course requirements (total of 30 points)**

- ◆ Attend the two day Conference (**12 points**)
- ◆ Keep a personal journal of the conference (**9 points**)
- ◆ Develop an annotated bibliography of required readings (**9 points**)

**JOURNAL:** Write a journal to Dr. Spear in which you share your thoughts, observations, questions, and reflections that emerge before and from the Summer Institute experience. Reflect on each activity and include the presenter, the topic and the central message of the presentation (**3 points**). Also, include the conversations and professional relations that you develop during the three days (**3 points**). Please reflect on the total Summer Institute experiences as a whole and make commitments to yourself regarding your practice in the upcoming months (**3 points**). These thoughts, questions, and reflections are part of the formal evaluation. They should reflect a 'churning and learning' thoughtfulness.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Complete an *annotated* bibliography of required readings. (**9 points**)

**Course Objectives: Formative Assessment: Checking for Understanding Institute**

*Designed to Help Educators Save Time and Focus Learning*

This Institute is designed to examine current classroom assessment strategies used to check students' prior knowledge before beginning instruction and to check what they are really learning. Bring unit and or lesson assessments you are currently using or have used. See how to incorporate the use of formative assessment strategies to guide your instruction and improve student learning. *Objectives include:*

- Understanding the Value of Formative Assessment
- Learn How to Use Oral Assessments

- Learn How to Effectively Use Questioning Formative Assessments
- Learn How to Use Effective Writing Formative Assessment
- Learn About Formative Assessment Projects & Perfection
- Learn About Formative Assessment Tests
- Learn about Common Assessments

**Required Texts:**

- ◆ *Checking for Understanding: Formative Assessment Techniques for your Classroom*, Fisher & Frey, ASCD 2007
- ◆ *Meet Me in the Middle: Becoming an Accomplished Middle-Level Teacher*, Wormeli, Stenhouse & NMSA, 2001
- ◆ *This We Believe: Successful Schools for Young Adolescents*, NMSA
- ◆ *This We Believe in Action: Implementing Successful Middle Level Schools*, NMSA

**Grading Scale:**

94 – 100	A	80 – 82.9	B-
90 – 93.9	A-	77 – 79.9	C+
87 – 89.9	B+	73 – 76.9	F
83 – 86.9	B		

**DEADLINES:** All course requirements must be fulfilled by December 1, 2009 for a January 2010 posting, or by April 28, 2010 for a May 2010 posting.

**Cost Information:** Graduate credits are offered at a rate of **\$145 per credit** plus a **\$25** administrative fee. Graduate credits are available only to NELMS professional development event attendees.

**Registration:** Please return the PSU registration form with your full tuition payment along with a copy of your conference receipt from NELMS for enrollment for graduate credits.

Mail graduate registration, payment and receipt to:

**Plymouth State University  
College of Graduate Studies – MSC 11  
ATTN: NELMS Registrations  
17 High Street  
Plymouth, NH 03264-1595**

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Gallagher our liaison at (978) 887-6263 X 17 e-mail at [sgallagher@nelms.org](mailto:sgallagher@nelms.org)