

Multiple Choice in a Classroom

Pro's

- Simulates many standardized tests
- Fast and easy to score
- Boosts students' spirits when they correctly guess and receive credit even though they don't have the tested knowledge or skill
- Students have opportunities to work with challenging questions that can only be done with multiple choice

Con's

- Provides inaccurate scores typically higher than those deserved
- Allows students to guess and earn credit for knowledge they do not possess
- Limits the teacher's diagnostic information
- Can teach incorrect knowledge to students when they convince themselves that an incorrect answer (a distractor) is correct

How to take advantage of many of the pro's and counteract many cons

1. Carefully select or develop items that require processing, thinking, reasoning, problem solving, decision making, or some other thinking behavior.
2. For students to receive credit for any item, require that they
 - a. Select the correct response letter
 - b. Provide a solid rationale, explanation, description or whatever is most appropriate to provide you with convincing evidence that they know what the item was designed to test
3. If a student provides the correct letter response but does not provide the convincing evidence , they do not receive credit.
4. If a student provides the convincing evidence but fails to provide the correct response letter, then he/she does not receive credit for the item