Teacher Notes

Elements of Punctuation

Activity 3
Assessing Elements of Punctuation

Activity Overview

During this activity, students respond to quiz questions concerning punctuation in two ways. First, students respond by filling in blanks, choosing multiple-choice answers, or determining whether a statement is true or false. Additionally, students are required to write brief explanations for each response or provide examples to support their choices.

Tip

Explain to students that this assessment works in two ways and for them to demonstrate complete understanding, they must complete the explanation or example portion of the quiz, not only the multiple choice. This approach allows teachers to assess knowledge more accurately and disallows students to seem competent by guessing the correct answer.

Directions

Prepare an electronic quiz using questions students wrote during the *Collaborating on Punctuation* activity (Activity 2); refer to Activity 2 for sample questions. When developing the quiz, be sure to include a section for each type of punctuation where students can record their answers or provide a correct example of the punctuation form.

Before the Activity Begins

Explain to students that the quiz they will be taking contains the questions they wrote, but may reflect minor changes for clarity or to eliminate redundancies. Explain that the quiz will be evaluated in two ways:

1) based on the accuracy of the fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, or true/false answer.

2) based on the accuracy and clarity of the explanation or example they provide for each question in the text block provided.

During the Activity

Deliver the quiz to the students using TI-GRAPH LINK™, a USB cable, or TI-Navigator™. Ensure that the students' class definitions are deleted from their devices prior to taking the quiz. Students should be able to complete the quiz without consulting notes or other resources.

After the Activity

LearningCheck™ Creator automatically grades quizzes as they are returned; hence, you will be able to provide immediate feedback on that portion of the quiz. You will complete the other half of the assessment by averaging the two types of evaluations to determine student comprehension.

Teacher Briefing Guide

This activity follows previous activities concerning punctuation wherein students wrote their own quiz questions. Alternately, teachers could write their own quiz questions without using the student-generated questions. The suggestions concerning quiz writing apply regardless of who writes them. By including an explanation section within traditional quiz format, teachers ensure that students have fully internalized the knowledge and are not merely able to guess the correct response.

Alternate Evaluation

Another possible form of evaluation for punctuation assessments would be to provide a paragraph that uses each of the forms and have students explain the functions of the punctuation used, or write their own paragraphs and   one another's use of punctuation, providing explanations for suggested changes.