



An **Open-Ended Response** is a meaningful answer to a question, task or problem presented to students that has more than one possible answer. When teachers utilize this effective practice, students can provide a quality open-ended response clearly demonstrating an understanding of the content and an explanation or opinion that extends beyond basic understanding. Open-ended responses can be used to promote curiosity, reasoning ability, creativity, and student independence. This type of response allows for different levels of complexity allowing for the personalization of learning.

- Determine the lesson objective and what students need to master by the end of the lesson or unit.
- Create and post tasks that will encourage students to express their ideas, thoughts, and/or feelings based on knowledge of the content.
- Determine how student responses and/or work products will be assessed. The teacher may use an existing rubric, create a rubric, assign a completion grade, or have students complete a self-reflection tool.
- Assign students open-ended tasks during and/or after the lesson. Allow time for students to generate and share their answers and products.
- Share expectations by modeling and/or presenting an open-ended response.
- Tell students how their answers and products will be assessed.
- Monitor work time and provide written or verbal feedback to promote reasoning ability.
- Assess student answers and products using the chosen assessment tool. Teacher written or verbal feedback is essential in promoting reasoning ability.



Additional Tools

Tiered Assignments

Tiered Assignments uses different assignments for different students or groups of students that have the same content and cover the same objectives, but the levels of tasks are varied according to student readiness.

Product Menus

Product Menus offer students a way to make decisions about what they will do in order to meet class requirements by providing various product options; much like a menu gives a customer many options at a restaurant.

For more strategies and/or resources, visit houstonisd.org/EffectivePractices



ALERTS

A great way to check for alignment between the lesson objective and open-ended task is to compare the verb in the objective with the verb in the task.

Traditional grading of open-ended responses may not be enough to capture student mastery, consider using rubrics and self-reflection to assess.



QUICK TIPS

Because open-ended tasks can be challenging, make sure to validate all efforts by showing praise and recognition with verbal or written feedback.

Consider using open-ended tasks as a way to differentiate for students based on their ability and learning style.