

# Assessment for Learning Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (AfL CETL) resources

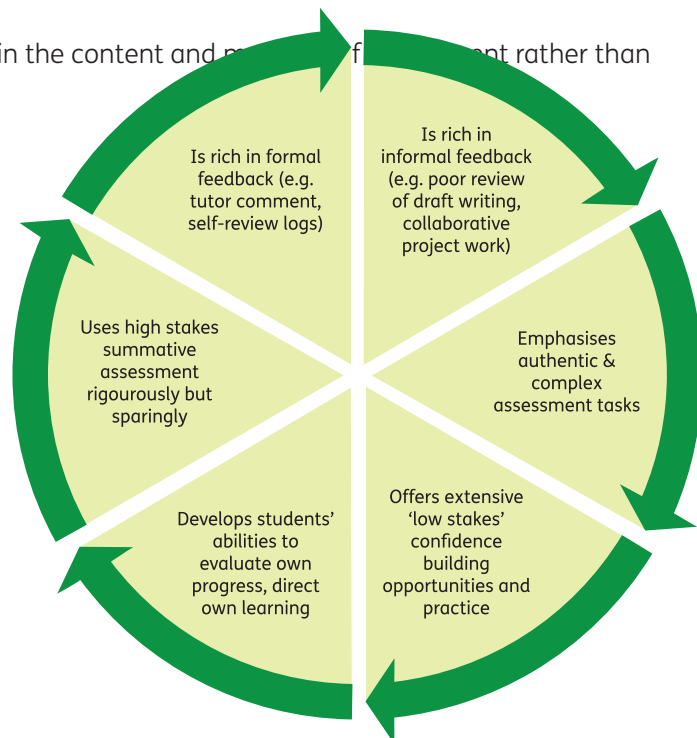
*The AfL CET is the national centre for expertise in Assessment for Learning and a home for innovation, development and research into assessment, learning and teaching at Northumbria University.*

## Assessment for Learning (AfL)

A key purpose of AfL is to foster student development in taking responsibility for evaluating, judging and improving their own performance by actively using a range of feedback. These capabilities are at the heart of autonomous learning and of the graduate qualities valued by employers and in professional practice.

### Assessment for Learning:

1. Emphasises authenticity and complexity in the content and nature of assessment rather than reproduction of knowledge and reductive measurement.
2. Uses high-stakes summative assessment rigorously but sparingly rather than as the main driver for learning.
3. Offers students extensive opportunities to engage in the kinds of tasks that develop and demonstrate their learning, thus building their confidence and capabilities before they are summatively assessed.
4. Is rich in feedback derived from formal mechanisms e.g. tutor comments on assignments, student self-review logs.
5. Is rich in informal feedback e.g. peer review of draft writing, collaborative project work, which provides students with a continuous flow of feedback on 'how they are doing'.
6. Develops students' abilities to direct their own learning, evaluate their own progress and attainments and support the learning of others.



The AfL CETL has produced a series of Signpost leaflets, which are the first step towards capturing many of the activities undertaken by AfL staff when using Assessment for Learning methodologies to enhance their teaching. They are a personal snapshot of a specific activity and describe the idea behind it and how it was executed as well as things to bear in mind. These resources are available at: [http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/cetl\\_afL/resources/signposts/](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/cetl_afL/resources/signposts/)

One of the resources (signpost 13) was developed through a soil degradation and rehabilitation module.

**Signpost 13 - On The Edge: Supporting marginalised students in groupwork assessment**  
<http://northumbria.ac.uk/static/5007/cetlpdf/signpost13.pdf>