

Tool 9: When Is an Essay an Appropriate Assessment?

With slight modifications, essay formats can be appropriate for each of the three layers of learning. Using the standard and essay questions written below, find the layer of learning that is most appropriate for the expectations of the essay.

In each box below, write the essay questions from above that would best meet the needs of the three layers of learning.

Standard	Describe the basic structure of a cell, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell wall • Cell membrane • Nucleus
Essay questions to meet the needs of each learner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In two paragraphs, describe the function of each of the three cell components and make an argument for the most important cell component. 2. In two paragraphs, define each of the three cell components. 3. In two paragraphs, describe the basic structure of a cell.

LAYERS OF LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT	ESSAY QUESTIONS
Essential Knowledge (Standards will use verbs such as <i>know</i> , <i>understand</i> , <i>identify</i> .)	
Application (Standards will include verbs such as <i>write</i> , <i>read</i> , <i>determine</i> , <i>sequence</i> , or <i>decide</i> .)	
Complex Thinking (Standards will include verbs such as <i>analyze</i> , <i>synthesize</i> , or <i>make judgments</i> .)	