

From: Brenda Torney  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 9:10 AM  
To: Faculty  
Subject: TLC News (27 November 2017)

Dear Colleagues,

“But I have to get an A in this class!”

Final exams are coming around again, as are end-of-semester papers and presentations, and students often panic, putting us in an uncomfortable, if not impossible, position.

How can we maintain a healthy balance between the requirement to grade our students' work and our objective to promote engaged and effective learning in our classes?

One area to think about is testing. When do we test? How do we test? Why do we test? These are questions to consider when planning a course (something many of us are doing now for next spring) but also when in the throes of teaching a course (like right now!). Finals are approaching, and test questions are on our minds. What is the perfect question to test my students' understanding of X? How can I phrase the question to encourage critical and creative thinking? What question will produce answers that are interesting to read?!?!

After flipping through quite a bit of literature on this question, we found that the University of Washington's Center for Teaching and Learning offers some helpful advice in a brief and simple format, “**Constructing tests**”. Click here to read their suggestions, including how to assess your own test:

<http://www.washington.edu/teaching/constructing-tests/>

If you have questions or would like feedback on a test or syllabus you are designing or updating, don't hesitate to contact us.

**Our final TLC lunch of the semester is tomorrow:** Tuesday, 28 Nov., 12:15-1:15, LTM-204 (La Tour Maubourg). Don't forget your lunch.

Next week, we'll send you some TLC dates for next semester so you can mark your calendars.

Have a good last week of November!

Your TLC

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