AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS
FOR UNIVERSITY LEARNING STORE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
extended campus

INTRODUCTION

Authentic assessments measure students' application of knowledge and skills based on learning tasks that mirror real world situations.

A CLOSER LOOK

Authentic Assessments are:

- Measures of mastery in a given domain
- Tools that help learners identify what they have and have not mastered

Authentic Assessments are not:

- Measures of proficiency for a given class
- Dependent on one set of materials (except for some professional certifications)

Example

- In a journalism course, an authentic assessment might ask students to create a news broadcast. Students' knowledge of and skills in news reporting will be evaluated based on their performance.
- In a nutrition course, an authentic assessment might ask students to analyze patients' meal plans and provide dietary guidelines.

Five Levels of Authentic Assessments

In the University Learning Store Assessments Model presented below, authentic assessments are categorized into five levels with authenticity increasing from level 1 to level 5.

University Learning Store Assessments Model

Level	Evaluator	FormatW
1: Case-based objective	Auto-graded	Multiple choice, true/false, matching, sorting, etc.
2: Case-based short answer	Auto-graded	Fill in the blank, problem sets, document tagging, etc.
3: Case-based long answer	Assessors with rubrics	Short essay, short video presentation, etc.
4: Creation or performance	Assessors with rubrics	Long essay, long video presentation, product/solution pitch, report, model development, portfolio, etc.
5: Creation or performance in a specific workplace	Assessors with rubrics	Long video presentation, model development, project report, oral examination, job performance, etc.

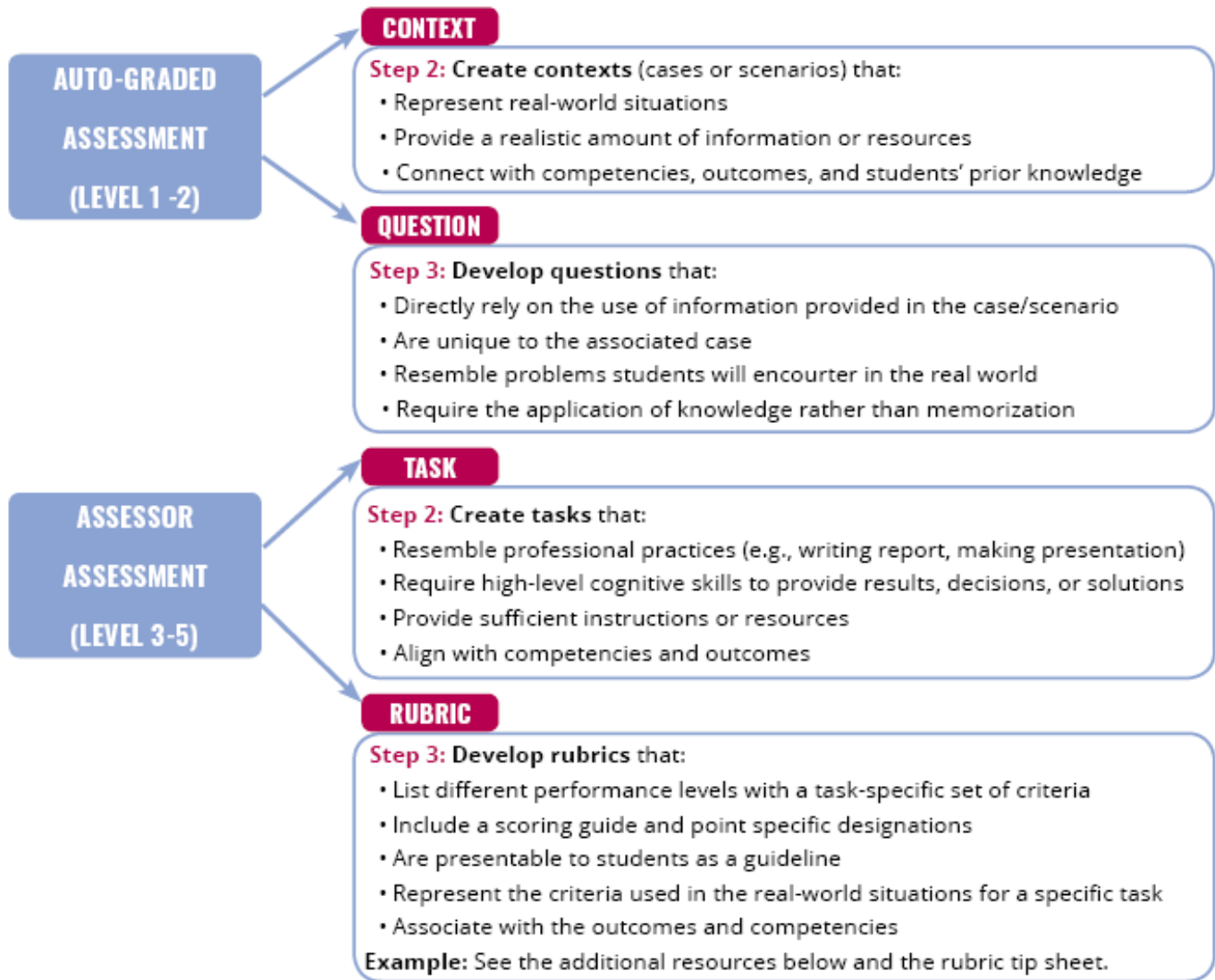## THREE STEPS TO DEVELOP AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENTS

ASSESSMENT FORMAT

FORMAT

Step 1: **Choose appropriate formats** for your assessment from the University Learning Store Assessment Model.

- Review the competencies and outcomes you have written
- Consider the potential audience
- Choose appropriate formats
- Follow the two steps below to create an auto-graded assessment or an assessor assessment

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AUTO-GRADED ASSESSMENT (LEVEL 1 -2)

CONTEXT

Step 2: Create contexts (cases or scenarios) that:
- Represent real-world situations
- Provide a realistic amount of information or resources
- Connect with competencies, outcomes, and students' prior knowledge

QUESTION

Step 3: Develop questions that:
- Directly rely on the use of information provided in the case/scenario
- Are unique to the associated case
- Resemble problems students will encounter in the real world
- Require the application of knowledge rather than memorization

ASSESSOR ASSESSMENT (LEVEL 3-5)

TASK

Step 2: Create tasks that:
- Resemble professional practices (e.g., writing report, making presentation)
- Require high-level cognitive skills to provide results, decisions, or solutions
- Provide sufficient instructions or resources
- Align with competencies and outcomes

RUBRIC

Step 3: Develop rubrics that:
- List different performance levels with a task-specific set of criteria
- Include a scoring guide and point specific designations
- Are presentable to students as a guideline
- Represent the criteria used in the real-world situations for a specific task
- Associate with the outcomes and competencies

Example: See the additional resources below and the rubric tip sheet.

CHECKLIST

Review your assessment to see if it meets these requirements:
- Auto-graded assessment:
  - Each assessment contains an authentic case or scenario.
  - Each question directly relies on the information provided in the case.
  - The answers are unique to the associated questions.
- Assessor assessment:
  - Each task resembles practices or problems that students will face in their professional fields.
  - The criteria in the rubric truly measure the associated competencies and outcomes.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- How to create authentic assessments by Jon Mueller: http://tinyurl.com/halynel
- A list of popular types of authentic assessments by Canvas: http://tinyurl.com/canvasassessment
- Rubric tip sheet: http://tinyurl.com/zohv575