Welcome to the Authentic Assessment Toolbox, a how-to text on creating authentic tasks, rubrics, and standards for measuring and improving student learning. Inside, you will find chapters on:

What is it? A good place to start -- in this chapter I identify the characteristics, strengths and limitations of authentic assessment; compare and contrast it with traditional (test-based) assessment.

Why do it? Why has authentic assessment become more popular in recent years? When can it best serve assessment needs?

How do you do it? After a brief overview, follow a detailed, four-step process for creating an authentic assessment.

Standards All good assessment begins with standards: statements of what we want our students to know and be able to do. What do we really value?

Tasks Authentic assessments are often called "tasks" because they include real-world applications we ask students to perform.

Rubrics To assess the quality of student work on authentic tasks, teachers develop rubrics, or scoring scales.

Portfolios A collection of a student’s work specifically selected to tell a particular story about the student -- and a great opportunity to develop self-assessment skills.

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Thanks to all of you who have adopted this text for your courses. I hope your students have found it useful.

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