

Assessing Understanding

“Do you get it?... YES!”

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PINC-Big Data Summer Program



Fostering Independence



Fostering Independence by way of Mentee Understanding



You must assess your mentee's level of understanding????

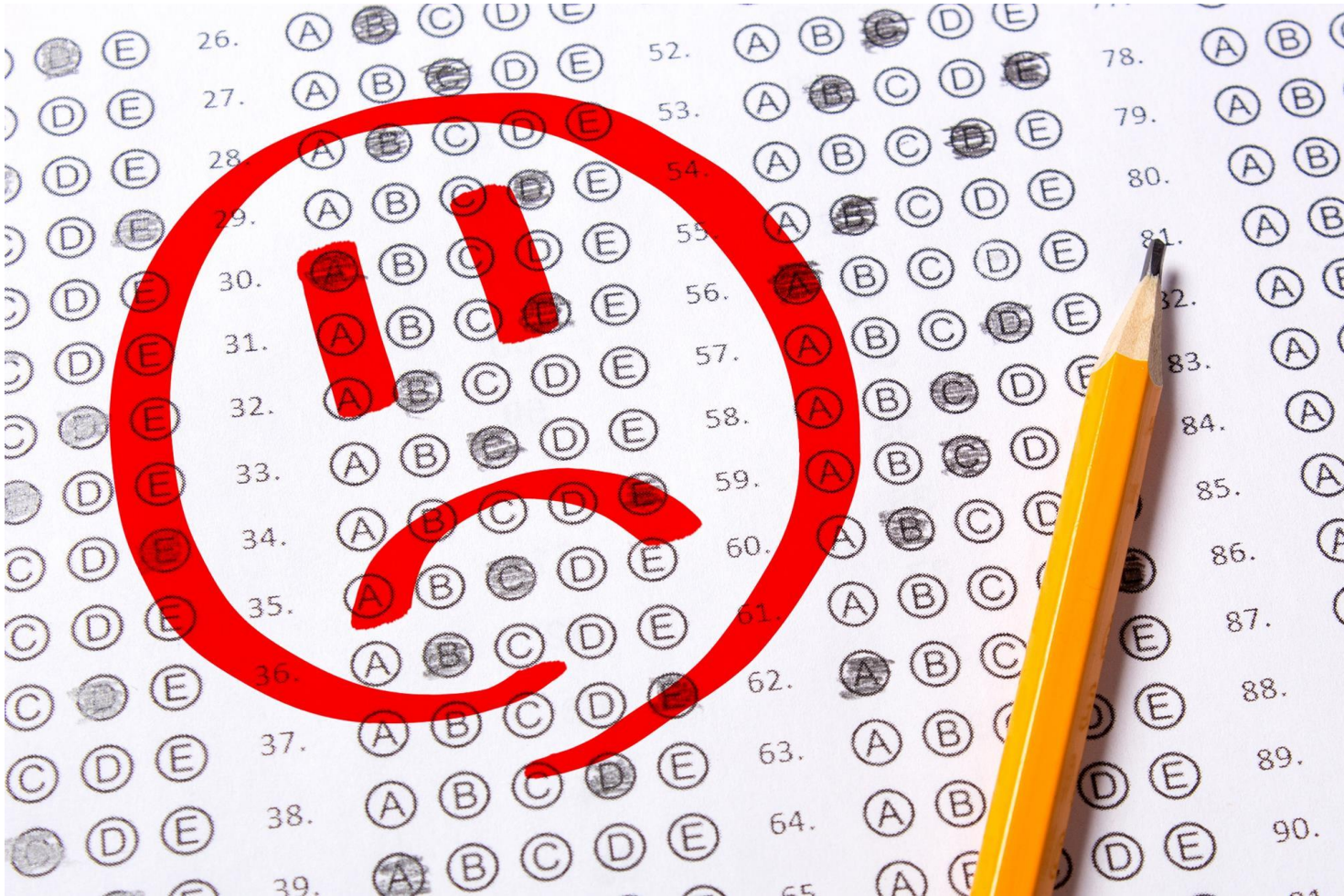
Assessing Mentee Understanding

- What are some ways to assess someone's ability to perform a task, or think through a scenario either face-to-face meetings, over email, through other written correspondence?

Please answer on your index card



Assessing Understanding- Testing



YOU as a Qualified Assessor

- You have knowledge in the discipline and have performed tasks
- You have experienced the mental and emotional struggles of learning to code (some becoming interdisciplinary)
- You are a living individual- instant interactive assessing



Assessing Mentee Understanding Personal Experiences

What is one scenario you have experienced or you can identify as a problem when assessing a mentee's level of understanding?

- Share amongst yourselves
- Two people (***or more***) share your thoughts

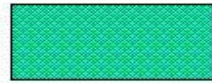


Discussion Prompts

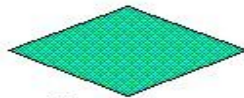
- How do you know if your mentee understands something?
 - How can you help your mentees accurately assess their own understanding?
 - How can you explain something in more detail without sounding condescending?
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- How do you determine the difference between a mentee not understanding something and the mentee not trying?
 - Why might a mentee have difficulty understanding?
 - How can you deal with the fact that a mentee may be embarrassed by a lack of understanding?
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- How would you know if a mentee is in need of an alternative communication modes to understand the project, i.e., written instructions to augment verbal? Is it the mentee's responsibility to let you know their needs in this area?
 - How can mentors balance promoting independence with confirming understanding?
 - How can you tell the difference between a miscommunication and a true lack of understanding?



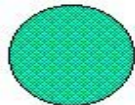
Assessment Tools- Flowcharts



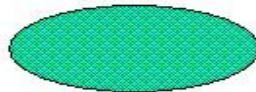
Do Something



Decision



Connector



Start or Stop



Input or Output

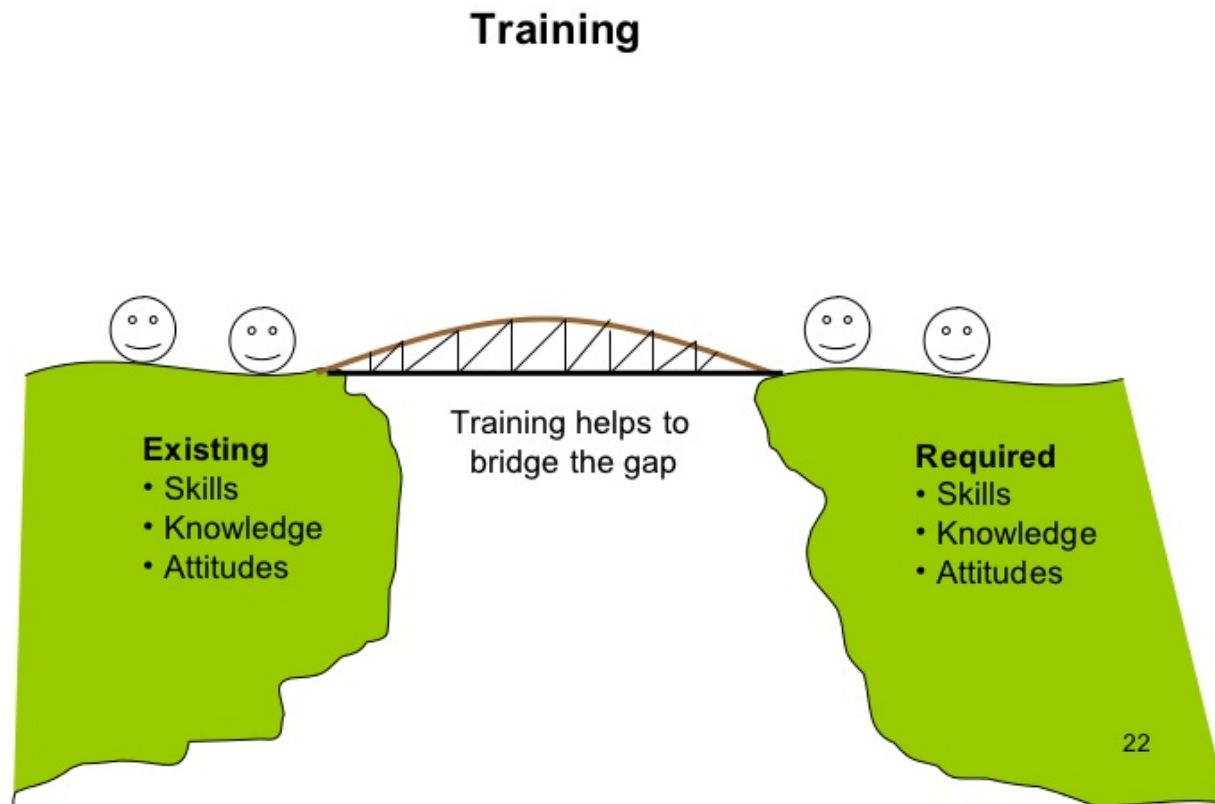


**Direction
of Flow**

Mailing a letter



Improving Understanding & Independence through Training Opportunities



Assessment Tools- Interactive Learning- “*Udemy.com*”-*Jose Padilla*

<https://www.udemy.com/courses/search/?src=ukw&q=jose+portilla>

- Engage in performing learned task
- Develop confidence in abilities
- Learn MORE skills in a low-risk/high-reward situation
- BRIDGE THE KNOWLEDGE-APPLICATION GAP!!



Assessment Strategies

- Take a minute to consider any assumptions made about what your mentee may know or not know.
- Take time to remember what it was like to not understand something before “I became an expert”.
- Write out an explanation and ask one of your peers from outside the discipline to identify all of the terms they do not understand.
- Ask your mentee to explain something back to you so that you can assess potential gaps in their knowledge and suggest areas in which their understanding could be enhanced.
- Ask your mentee to explain something to another mentee or trainee.
- Ask your mentee to organize information with a flowchart, diagram, or concept-map.
- Ask your mentee to come up with an analogy from their own work that relates to the project (*in your own words*)



Ensuring the Learning Environment is Adequate

- *How People Learn* Handout
- *Building a Mentoring Relationship*

