



## Assessing ELLs

Oral presentations or performances such as interviews, oral reports and summarizing/paraphrasing pieces of text are effective ways to continually assess the progress of English Language Learners. They should be used on an ongoing basis to monitor a student's comprehension over an extended period of time.

For early ELLs, using an interview as an assessment is effective when testing content knowledge. A variety of visual cues may be needed. For example, you can have students select pictures from a book they like, and answer questions about them. You can use this strategy to assess use of vocabulary and understanding of concepts.

For more advanced ELLs, an oral presentation can be provided individually to the teacher, or to a work group or the whole class. You can have the student retell the plot from a class reading or have them select a character from a work of fiction and tell a story about them from their point of view.

### Assignment:

Consider the age and ability level of the English Language Learner you would like to assess and create an oral presentation assignment for them.

1. Describe the grade and ability level of the learner you want to support.
2. Choose an oral presentation such as an interview, report, or summary of selected text and describe what you will ask the student to do.
3. Create a checklist of things you will look for during the presentation (e.g., pace, volume, pronunciation, etc.). The checklist should include items you would observe and assess over time for continuity in measuring progress.
4. Detail the steps you would take in explaining the purpose of the assignment to the student, and how you would follow-up after the presentation based on your observations. Would you share this information with the student's parents on an ongoing basis? Why or why not?