Assessment Techniques:

Angelo & Cross: *Classroom Assessment Techniques* is a seminal reference for classroom assessment. This book has 50 assessment techniques organized by what skill is being emphasized in the course. The following example is offered to pique your interest and/or employ in the classroom.

Assessing: Analysis & Critical Thinking

**Pro/Con Grid:**

Experiment: After presenting a topic/work that explores options, decision making, ethical dilemma or the like ask students to make a parallel lists of the pros and cons of the instructor’s prompt.

Prompt: Now that we have reviewed the financial situation of our clients, quickly list the costs and benefits of this two career couple filing tax returns jointly, provide at least 3 costs and 3 benefits (Angelo & Cross, 1993).

Allow 3-5 minutes then collect the responses (no-names).

Analysis: Scan the responses and create a list of pros and cons students identified, then count these-up. How often were concepts addressed (frequency count)? Are there key sides of the argument that were left out? Are the pros and cons specific to the prompt?

Results: Record the number of times a pro/con was listed into an Excel spreadsheet (or any data management system). These data can be reported in a variety of methods (e.g. charts, color-coded, narrative).

Feedback for students: Explore the most frequently identified pros and cons. Inform students of the strength of the most popular list items back to the original scenario. You may want to identify “extraneous” pros/cons that have little to no relevance as off-track.

Feedback for instructor: Are the pros/cons balanced? Angelo and Cross warn that this type of assessment might create controversy depending upon the scenario. Sounds perfect for higher education! This assessment technique has immediate application as well as informing the action plan for next semester.

Adapted from Angelo & Cross, *Classroom Assessment Techniques* (1993). We have several copies of this book on campus.