



Myth-busting: Debunking Multiple-choice Misconceptions

Facilitator(s):	Tim Coates
Date:	April 11, 2018
Time:	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Cost:	\$50.00 (includes lunch, which is not prepared in a nut/gluten-free environment)
Location:	Edmonton (ERLC Office at Elmwood School) Room 17/18, 16325 - 83 Avenue
Session Code:	18-AS-052



Target Audience

Grades 4-12 Teachers, Administrators

About this Learning Opportunity

One does not have to probe too deeply into educational literature to find disparaging observations regarding multiple-choice questions. To be fair, the criticisms are not without foundation as there are many poor quality multiple-choice questions in use. However, there also are poor quality rubrics, performance assessments and other means of gathering assessment information.

The problem is not multiple-choice questions perse, but rather how they are constructed, and how the information they generate is used (or not used) to provide valuable instructional information.

This session will identify and debunk the myths and offer you guidance as to how to make high-quality questions and how to use the questions to provide valuable information about student understandings and misconceptions.

About the Facilitator(s)

After a number of years in the classroom, **Tim Coates** was seconded to Alberta Education as a Diploma Examination Manager; first for Social Studies 33, and later for Social Studies 30. From 2005 until 2014, Tim served as the Director of the Diploma Examination Program Branch.

Currently, Tim is both a sessional lecturer at the University of Alberta, teaching a course in classroom assessment and an education consultant providing sessions and workshops on various assessment related topics.

Tim has offered many professional development presentations throughout Alberta and on several occasions in the United States. Tim's educational interests and expertise focus on matters regarding the relationship among assessment, programs of study outcomes, and instructional practices. He has special interest in working with teachers and school authorities on how to maximize the quality of assessment practices, how to minimize assessment error, ensure an appropriate application of standards, and establish the most appropriate means to report assessment results to multiple assessment "audiences."

In his spare time, Tim raises a small flock of free-range chickens, and has been known to bring along a dozen eggs to sessions, as a prize for a lucky participant.

This learning opportunity is being provided through funding from Alberta Education.