



Portfolio Activity 8.1

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT?

Materials Needed:

- Pencil and paper or a computer

- A. Think about why we assess students. What do you think is the purpose of assessment? On a sheet of paper or on a computer, make three columns. Label the first column *Know*, label the second column *Want to know*, and label the third column *Learned* (Ogle, 1986). Take a few moments to list in the first column as many things as you know about why we assess students.
- B. Interview a classmate to see why he or she thinks we assess students. How does his or her viewpoint compare with yours? Find another classmate (or a teacher) with a different viewpoint. Compare and contrast these two colleagues' ideas about assessment.
- C. Interview an elementary or middle grade student (preferably a student in grade four, five, six, or higher in which testing becomes more frequent) and ask the student why he or she is assessed or tested in school. How does the student's view of assessment compare with the teacher's? With yours?
- D. After conducting these interviews, list as many things in the second column that you can think of that you want to know about assessment. At the end of the next chapter, you will assess your own learning by filling in the third column with what you have learned about assessment (see Portfolio Activity 9.9).
- E. Place your ideas in your portfolio.