

Activities: Understanding Validity for Teachers

Understanding Validity for Teachers Activity: What is Test Validity?

This activity will help you answer the essential question:

- What is Test Validity?
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Activity 1: What is Test Validity?

You may complete this activity individually or in groups.

Part 1

Consider these two definitions of education test validity and then answer the question:

- How would you define test validity for a parent?

[Validity is] The degree to which evidence supports the accuracy of test-based inferences (interpretations) about students. (Popham)

Validity is the extent to which a test appropriately measures the intended testing area. For example, a valid math test is focused on the numbers and concepts without distracting students with difficult or unfamiliar language or ideas. (Education.com, Inc.)

Part 2

Read this excerpt from the Website [Classroom Assessment](#) and then answer the question.

- Why is validity more important than reliability when considering the quality of classroom assessments?

Validity refers to the accuracy of an assessment -- whether or not it measures what it is supposed to measure. Even if a test is reliable, it may not provide a valid measure. Let's imagine a bathroom scale that consistently tells you that you weigh 130 pounds. The reliability (consistency) of this scale is very good, but it is not accurate (valid) because you actually weigh 145 pounds (perhaps you re-set the scale in a weak moment)! Since teachers, parents, and school districts make decisions about students based on assessments (such as grades, promotions, and graduation), the validity inferred from the assessments is essential -- even more crucial than the reliability. Also, if a test is valid, it is almost always reliable. (Pinellas School District and Florida Center for Instructional Technology)