

## **Revised Definition of Summative Assessment**

The revised student growth goals make room for different models of classroom assessment. At the heart of this shift is a revised definition of summative assessment. For the purposes of the student growth goal process:

**Summative assessment simply means *summing up*  
– or *describing* –  
the learning.**

While summative assessments are typically associated with end-of-unit tests, projects, or essays (or even state summative tests), summative assessment doesn't need to involve scores at all.

In fact, a score is a limited, uni-dimensional description of student learning.

***Summative assessment can also refer to:  
any description of the students' learning based on artifacts,  
conversations, self-reflections, and observations  
that take place over a period of time.***