Using formative assessment rubrics in Geography

Transcript

(GENTLE MUSIC PLAYS)

In 2019 the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority partnered with the Assessment Research Centre at the University of Melbourne to provide professional learning for teachers to strengthen their understanding and use formative assessment rubrics.

**Why use formative assessment rubrics?**

Students can show us their ideas in so many different ways, and so many different paths, there's always something else they can add to it. So this sort of thing helps show, yep, you've got that part of it but we could also move to this part and try and include this and learn this as well.

**What were some considerations when writing or using the rubrics?**

I think it's been really good to have a think about how can we include as much as possible in a unit, in an activity, whatever it is, and still do it well without overdoing it and having too much and then doing lots of things poorly.

The way that we've constructed the rubric, we are looking to encourage students to be using many different formats for their presentation of data.

- So in that respect...

- Yes.

..there is a lot of opportunity for students to actually, you know, try different formats and also work out which are the most appropriate formats to use as well.

Particularly I suppose for primary school teachers, we don't necessarily always teach a subject on Geography. So really going in and seeing what the curriculum expects. But I think as we've nutted out the actual rubric, we're now thinking, "Oh, what would a prep student present to you? "What would be expected of a grade four student? And that's where a personal experience can come in.

**How does formative assessment impact student learning?**

Feedback would be crucial, really, for students because if they can respond to that feedback and see where they are on the learning continuum and then go, "Here's how I could improve." And then that would then improve the whole fieldwork report.

Formative assessment doesn't necessarily just have to be written assessment. I can then talk to the students and gain their understanding. And I think it gave really clear indication of where to take the kids next in terms of their Geographic Understanding.