

Example of Assessment Activities at North Dakota State University

Twenty-five (25) NDSU Faculty spent two whole days November 3 and 4, 2011, at the NDSU Campus learning how to apply to their teaching a national model for assessing how much students learn. This ever growing in popularity approach to student performance based assessment is called the Performance Task. An example of a Performance Task is provided on the next page.

Collegiate Learning Assessment

Performance Task Example

You are the assistant to Pat Williams, the president of DynaTech, a company that makes precision electronic instruments and navigational equipment. Sally Evans, a member of DynaTech's sales force, recommended that DynaTech buy a small private plane (a SwiftAir 235) that she and other members of the sales force could use to visit customers. Pat was about to approve the purchase when there was an accident involving a SwiftAir 235. **You are provided with the following documentation:**

- 1: Newspaper articles about the accident
- 2: Federal Accident Report on in-flight breakups in single engine planes
- 3: Pat's e-mail to you & Sally's e-mail to Pat
- 4: Charts on SwiftAir's performance characteristics
- 5: Amateur Pilot article comparing SwiftAir 235 to similar planes
- 6: Pictures and description of SwiftAir Models 180 and 235

Please prepare a memo that addresses several questions, including what data support or refute the claim that the type of wing on the SwiftAir 235 leads to more in-flight breakups, what other factors might have contributed to the accident and should be taken into account, and **your overall recommendation about whether or not DynaTech should purchase the plane.**

“Performance Task is about Analyzing complex, realistic scenarios

Involves synthesizing information from multiple sources; recognizing conflicting evidence; weighing the credibility of difference sources of evidence; identifying logical fallacies; interpreting data, tables, and figures correctly; drawing reasonable and logical inferences from available information; developing sound conclusions based on all available evidence; and utilizing the most relevant and credible evidence available to justify conclusions.”