

**From:** Peer Reviewer Resource Site (21600) notifications@instructure.com  
**Subject:** April PRRS Post: Instructional Materials, Activities, and Assessments: Peer Reviewer Resource Site (21600)  
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There are six Alignment Standards in the QM Higher Education Rubric, Seventh Edition that focus on the learning objectives (SRS 2.1 & SRS 2.2), assessments (SRS 3.1), instructional materials (SRS 4.1), learning activities (SRS 5.1), and course technologies (SRS 6.1). Our post this month will focus on supporting reviewers in the review of instructional materials, activities, and assessments in a course.

- Instructional materials include the content presented to students. This could include, but is not limited to, a textbook, journal articles, PowerPoint slides, lectures, and videos.
- Once students read, watch, and/or listen to the content, **they need time to learn this new information** and practice using it by interacting with the content, their Instructor, and/or their peers. Learning activities allow students to do this. Learning activities are low-stakes, require completion/submission, may be graded or not graded, and help prepare the students for the assessments.
- The assessments in a course allow instructors to determine if students have achieved the learning objectives.
- When reviewing the course map and the content in the course shell, each assignment should be either an activity or an assessment, not both, depending on its purpose in the course (prepare/practice or evaluate/assess). For example, students could complete a short discussion post (activity) and then complete a timed quiz (assessment). In another course, a quiz might be a self-check quiz with several attempts (activity) that allows students to prepare for a case-based, applied discussion (assessment) or an exam (assessment).

Bethany Simunich, Vice President of Innovation & Research held the webinar [Activities and Assessments - From Confusion to Clarity](#) last Fall. If you weren't able to attend and missed the recording, you can still check it out.

If you have any questions, please contact the Quality Assurance Team.  
Thank you,  
The QA Team

