CHAPTER 12

CONTENT-BASED ASSESSMENT:
LANGUAGE AND CONTENT

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

There are now several good accessible resources to help language teachers develop content-based assessment tools. Weigle and Jensen (1997) discuss construct validity, authenticity, reliability, impact, interactivity, and practicality as these terms apply to content-based assessment. They then describe a university-level CBI exam, based on the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Leila May-Landy (1999) wrote a chapter entitled “Linking Assessment to the Content-Based Curriculum.” She discusses authentic assessment, cognitive learning theory, and the role of feedback in content-based instruction.

Haley and Austin (2004) have written a book entitled Content-Based Second Language Teaching and Learning: An Interactive Approach. It includes a chapter about evaluating and creating content-based assessment, which describes a range of alternative assessment techniques.


HELPFUL WEBSITES

If you would like to learn more about the assessment procedures developed by WIDA, or about the English Language Development Standards or the Spanish Language Development Standards, please visit http://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx.
To read more about the Common Core Standards in the United States, you can visit this website: http://www.corestandards.org/.

For helpful teaching ideas, including suggestions on assessment issues related to these standards, please visit http://www.edutopia.org/blog/common-core-in-action-series.

For a reference list on content-based instruction and assessment, visit http://www.tirfonline.org/resources/references/ and scroll down the alphabetized list.

If you would like to know more about Lisa Donohoe Luscombe’s content-based course, you can view her workforce case report by visiting the following site: http://www.tirfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/TIRF_WorkforceCaseReport9_Donohoe_May2012-FINAL.pdf.

For a very good explanation of how Kendall’s tau works, watch the video explanation about this statistic at http://how2stats.blogspot.com/2011/10/kendalls-tau-spss.html.

There is another helpful video with worked examples by the same teacher, which can be found here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXVxaSoY94k. This explanation of Kendall’s tau is in two parts. Part Two is here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4MgE43SrgM.

To calculate Kendall’s tau-B, we have found the free software at this URL to be user-friendly: http://www.wessa.net/rwasp_kendall.wasp#output.

The Spearman’s rho correlation calculator at the following site seems to work very well: http://www.socscistatistics.com/tests/spearman/Default2.aspx.