

## Assessment, Learning and Technology Solutions

### Famous Five Foundational Workshop Series

The professional development programs described in the table below constitute The Assessment, Learning, and Technology Solutions “Foundational Series”. This series provides tools, techniques and tips designed to equip teachers to create outstanding learning experiences. The workshop series typically begins with sessions that focus on the human brain and learning. These sessions are packed with practical guidelines for creating student-centered, 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments. Day 2 of the workshop series focuses on aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment. When curriculum, instruction and assessment are well-aligned, like a team of horses all pulling in the same direction, they work together for the benefit of students. The end result is that learning increases. Days 3, 4 and 5 in the Foundational Series go into the details of test construction and question writing, with specific attention to validity, reliability and equity.

	Title	Brief Description
Foundational Day 1	Creating 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments by Understanding the Human Brain	This workshop discusses how the human brain processes information and how teachers, professors and trainers could use this information to increase learning. Tips are provided for engaging and maintaining students’ attention, maximizing remembering, minimizing forgetting, creating “teachable moments”, and effectively managing classroom time with the learners’ brains and the primacy/recency effect in mind.
Foundational Day 2	Aligning Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to Maximize Learning	Participants learn how to align assessments, curriculum and instruction. To participate actively workshop participants need to bring a set of learning objectives with which they are familiar, e.g. the syllabus for one of the courses they teach, and an assessment they created to assess a part of that syllabus. A refresher course on Bloom’s Taxonomy and many hands-on activities contribute to an enjoyable learning experience.
Foundational Day 3	Assessment Concepts, Terminology, Tools and Techniques for Developing Effective Assessments	This workshop provides a clear conceptual overview of validity and reliability in language teachers can understand. Simple analogies enhance the learning experience. Apart from assessment terminology and concepts, essential steps in the test development process are described and explained. Participants learn how to create informative assessments that yield useful results – by design.
Foundational Day 4	Writing Flawless Select-type Questions	This workshop looks at the distinguishing characteristics of effective multiple choice questions and provides criteria that teachers, professors, trainers and course developers could use to evaluate the quality of the multiple choice questions used in their assessments. Guidelines are provided for avoiding flaws and writing effective multiple-choice, true/false, yes/no, fill-in-the-blank from a word bank and matching questions.
Foundational Day 5	Writing and Scoring Supply-type Questions	This workshop provides guidelines for writing effective short constructed-response, long constructed-response, and essay questions. Guidelines are also provided for creating rubrics, scoring guides and performance checklists to score supply-type questions including performance tasks, projects and portfolios. Hands-on activities and examples enable participants to leave with actual products they can begin to use. To participate actively workshop participants need to bring at least one supply type question and the scoring guide they currently use.

Workshop facilitators are well-credentialed and experienced. Members of the ALTS team of workshop specialists are available to discuss your professional development needs and recommend additional topics which could be delivered for maximum benefit to your organization, school, college or university.