When formative assessments are discussed for K-12 education it often means pre/post testing used to individualize instruction and confirm the correlation to learning goals. These examples are ill-suited to higher education because class time is at a premium. We emphasize examples drawn for college geometry and the calculus based probability and statistics course. These have the common thread that they advance the course content, provide the students with a non-threatening assessment, and give the instructor a more precise idea of the strengths and weaknesses of individual students. (Received September 23, 2011)