



## HANDOUT 3.3.1 – Your Turn

### Clapping Institute Activity

**Directions:** This handout provides a comprehensive overview of the Clapping Institute activity. Review the following instructions before beginning the activity.

**Overview:** Participants play the part of assessors and assessees to explore both the meaning of quality with respect to alternative assessment and why we all should care about quality. The activity is designed for educators at a moderate level of understanding about assessment, but is effective for all educators because of the way it taps into participants' emotions and experiences as learners. Total time is 75 minutes.

**Purposes:**

1. To look at different ways assessments can be designed
2. To explore the way that these designs affect how the assessor and assessed feel – the consequences of how we do assessment
3. To develop an awareness and a better understanding of the pros and cons of involving students in their own assessment

**Rationale:** Assessment is a deeply affective thing. It stirs strong feelings about success, failure, and self-esteem. The Clapping Institute is designed to show the impact of assessment both on individuals' performance and on their feelings throughout the rating process. This activity provides a graphic demonstration of the unintended consequences of how we design our performance assessments.

**Materials:**

- Overhead projector, screen, blank transparencies, transparency pens
- Ten chairs set up in a semi-circle at the front of the room, five on either side
- Pencil and pad of paper for each assessor
- Optional: Prizes for 10 participants

**Facilitator's Notes:** The activity is experiential – it asks participants to commit and invest themselves in the process. As such, it might make some participants uncomfortable. Therefore, it is extremely essential to manage the activity well. If working with people who know each other well, it needs careful management from the center because previous relationships and sub-agendas might get out of hand. This is usually not the case in groups of people who do not know each other. Once this exercise has been done with a group, it can't be done again with the same group. The exercise requires at least 15 people.

Note: The full script and description of this activity can be found online at <http://educationnorthwest.org/resource/700>.  
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