Defining Outcomes Assessment

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By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Describe accurately the practice of outcomes assessment;
- Distinguish between formative and summative assessment;
- Evaluate arguments against the practice of outcomes assessment;
- Summarize some of the historical, social, and pedagogical reasons for engaging in OA.

Describe 1-2 most inspiring moments you've had as a teacher.

How do we touch students' lives?

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Outcomes Assessment is one way to measure this.

The purpose of Outcomes Assessment is to improve student learning.

"Outcomes Assessment"

Outcomes Assessment is a collaborative investigation of student learning, as it relates to explicit course-, program-, and/or college-wide learning outcomes. Its sole purpose is to improve student learning.

"Outcome"

An outcome is a statement of what students should know or be able to do as a result of completing a course or program.

"Assessment"

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- <u>Formative</u> – happens along the way
- *<u>Summative</u> – happens at the end of a course or program
- *Both* focus on stated learning outcomes.

Traditional Model

- Curriculum = content + delivery
- Professor as expert ("sage on the stage")
- Student as vessel
- Goal is absorption & regurgitation (grade-focus)
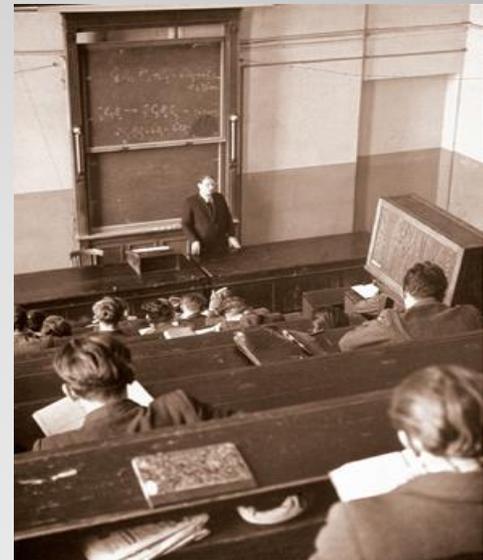
Outcomes Model

- Outcome = content + directed practice
- Instructor as coach
- Student as active learner
- Focus on "real world" abilities

Outcomes Assessment Project

- Determine outcome(s)
- Identify course(s)
- Determine artifact(s) of learning
- Collect
- *Collectively* measure artifacts/evidence
- Discuss results & *formalize changes* ("closing the loop")
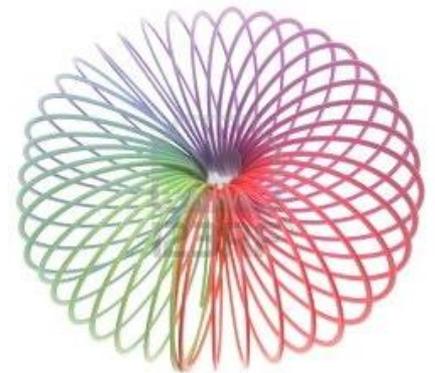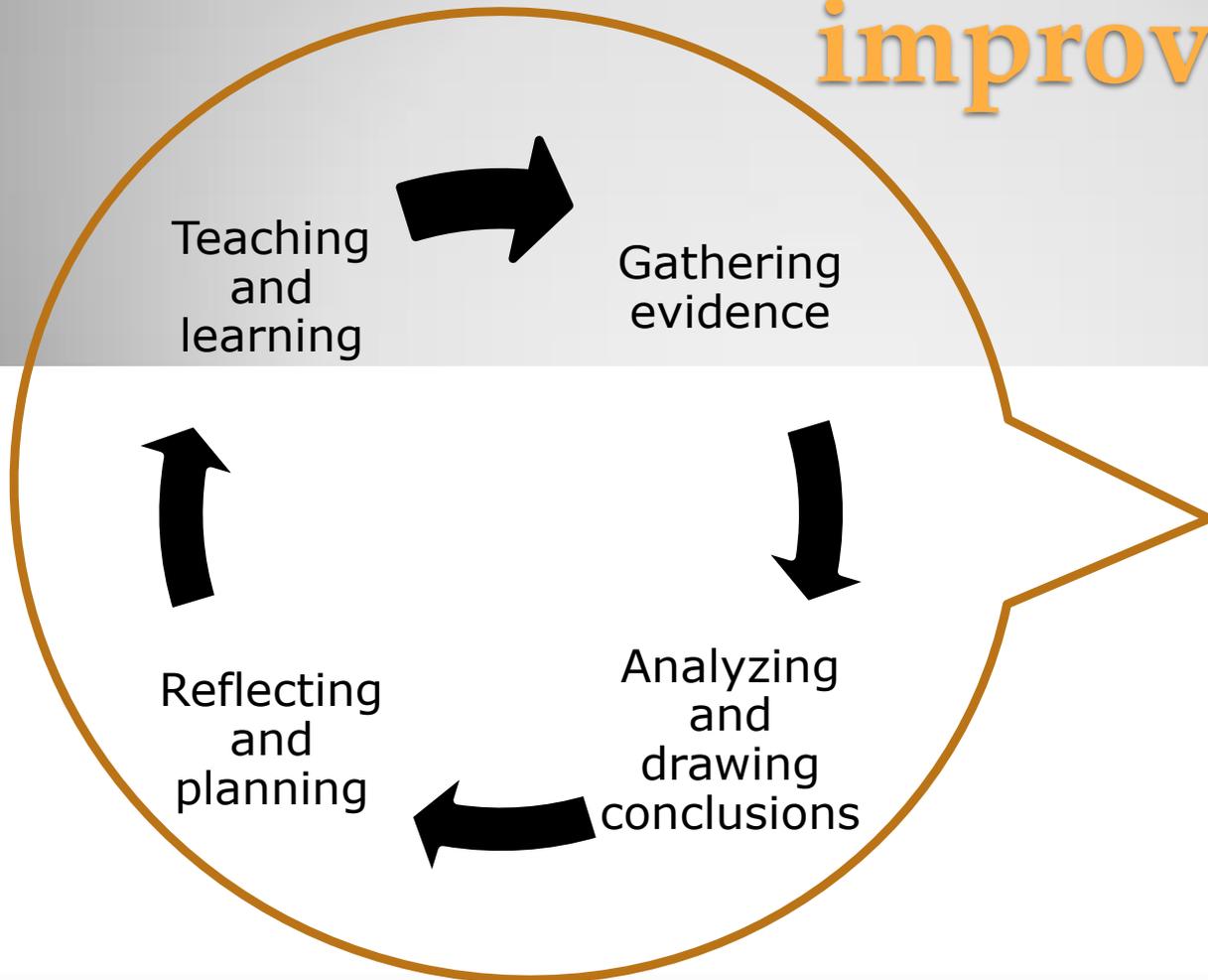
How did we get here?

History of failed *external* "quality control" initiatives:
- TQM
- MBO
- NCLB (standardized tests)

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What's missing from this picture?

Outcomes Assessment

- ✓ Began in mid-1980s
- ✓ Well-established in K-12
- ✓ Focuses on student learning
- ✓ *Faculty*-led
- ✓ Here to stay (accreditation requirement)

Objections

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! This is only for accreditors.
! This violates my academic freedom.
! This is more work for me.

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How do we *know* that we've touched students' lives?

How do we *know* that we've touched students' lives?

How do *students* know?

Outcomes Assessment

- ✓ **Collaborate with colleagues**
  - ✓ **Improve our practices**
  - ✓ **Deliver on our promises**