

13. SHOULD IT STAY OR SHOULD IT GO

It is very easy to misinterpret the purpose of a self-assessment, but not so easy to let the learner know that what they wrote in their self-assessment – after they tried their best – is not entirely adequate. Prevention is the buzzword here. This quiz is designed to be a fun exercise during which we can all laugh about possible self-assessment mistakes before they happen.



GROUP SIZE

Any



DURATION

30-50 minutes

RESOURCES & PREPARATION (SPACE, MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, PEOPLE)



- Paper and pens
- A bell or whistle or hammer (anything that can be used in a quiz when your team is ready to answer).
- Handout with questions
- Board or flipchart to write down the points of each team



OBJECTIVES

- To help young people understand what not to write in a self-assessment
- To have fun while preventing inadequate content writing and demystifying the self-assessment process

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD STEP BY STEP



This is a quiz you can play with individuals if you have a small group, or you can create teams if the group is too big. Ideally, you should not have more than five individual contestants or teams to make sure everyone gets to participate actively.

There are as many rounds as the number of sentences you want participants to reflect about, so one sentence = one round. For each round the procedure is:

- The game host reads the sentence out loud, followed by the question “Should it stay or should it go?” *step 1*
- The teams (or individuals) click the button (or ring the bell or blow the whistle or whatever they want to use to indicate they want to answer). If a team answers “it should stay”, this means they believe the sentence makes sense in a self-assessment. If a team answers “it should go”, they think the sentence is not appropriate for a self-assessment. *step 2*
- The host decides which team was first to answer and allows them to give their opinion first. *step 3*
- After the first team answers, any other teams that want to give it a try may also give their answer. Each time a team answers, they should explain why they believe theirs is the right answer. *step 4*
- The host reveals the right answer and explains why that particular sentence should or should not be part of a self-assessment. *step 5*
- The host writes down the points of each team for each round on the board or flipchart. *step 6*

Points system:

One correct answer = 10 points

Being the first to answer = +5 points

Having the most creative justification for their answer (even if the answer is wrong) = +5 points

Note:

The sentences proposed in this exercise were created to encourage reflection and debate. You and your learners do not always have to agree on your answers. Just let the debate flow and keep in mind that the purpose is to write a self-assessment.



DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS

- What did this quiz teach you about self-assessment?
- What will you pay special attention to when writing your self-assessment?

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND



You can make this quiz as simple or exciting as you wish. Dress up, create prizes, add features and special challenges, or simply ignore the quiz, sit down with participants and ask their opinion about each sentence.

CREATED BY

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sentences

Although I already speak three languages, during this project I improved my level of English.

I now feel more confident expressing my emotions.

I really liked the food at the venue.

During this activity I fell in love and that I will never forget.

should it stay or should it go?

should stay

A self-assessment identifies new things that you learned but also competences you improved. Having said that, it would be important to complete this text with an explanation about how you improved – in this case, your English.

should stay

A self-assessment is not only about hard knowledge but about competence development as a whole. That means knowledge, skills and attitudes. Feeling more confident expressing your emotions is an important step in improving your communication skills, for example.

should go

A self-assessment is not the same as an evaluation form. The idea is not to assess the quality of the venue but the quality of your own personal learning journey.

should go

Although this is very touching, it is something you should write in your diary, not in a self-assessment you may later want to show to employers or teachers.

sentences

I learned a lot of new things through games and I realised I learn better this way.

As I was the person responsible for buying the plane ticket(s), I learned a lot about travel planning.

The group was really nice and everyone had fun together..

As a youth worker I was happy to see that Peter was so involved in every activity. (Written by the youth worker in Peter's self-assessment)

should it stay or should it go?

should stay

Great! Realising how you learn better makes you a better learner. And by becoming a better learner you will always learn more. It is a positive spiral of competence development!

should stay

Your self-assessment doesn't have to be only about your experience during the activities. What you learned during preparation and follow-up is equally important, so remember to mention it.

should go

That's great news but it doesn't refer to any learning aspect.

should go

If you are not the rightful owner of a self-assessment please refrain from writing in it. It's not yours! Doing that is like writing a private diary for someone else. It just doesn't make sense, right?

sentences

I did this exercise where I had to empty a cup of water without touching it. I started trying with tape but that didn't work. Then I used a chair, but that broke the glass. With a new cup I used some ropes and then I managed the task. Through this I learned a lot about project management.

The facilitators said that it's important to be active in society and I agree with them.

After this project I was motivated to learn more French, so since I got home I have been taking weekly classes with two of my friends.

We learned a lot of things but I can't really remember them now.

should it stay or should it go?

should go

Sometimes, in non-formal learning and experiential learning settings we learn a lot from games and activities. A detailed description of these activities may not be relevant for the reader. Moreover, if the exercise prompts the learner to reflect about other, more complex, concepts (e.g., project management), it is important to show the link between the activity and the topic as well as how the learner reflected on that topic. Otherwise it is difficult to understand how an exercise with a cup of water helped the learner to develop project management competences.

should go

It's not important who you agree with but what you believe in. In this case you could phrase the statement like this: "I learned that it is important to be active in society because..."

should stay

Your learning journey does not end when you return home. If you kept on exploring a certain topic that was part of the project, this shows you have the capacity to pursue your learning objectives. That is a strong skill! (By the way, if you do not know where to put this, try the box entitled "Learning to Learn".)

should go

A self-assessment is not about We but about You. Besides, there is no point writing about things you don't remember, right?

sentences

My friend Peter, who also took part in this activity, learned many new dance steps.

I improved my active listening skills by taking part in two workshops about this topic and practicing with my colleagues. I became more confident using active learning techniques. Other participants mentioned that they noticed my improvements.

I didn't know much about marketing before this project but I attended a session on that topic and that really helped me understand it better. I still need an opportunity to practice it though. I hope it comes soon.

should it stay or should it go?

should go

In principle, what Peter learned should be in his self-assessment, not yours. For that reason, the sentence should go. However, if the next sentence is "And that motivated me to start dancing as well. I now dance three times a week and perform every week." Then it would be ok to use that sentence... right?

should stay

This one is a winner. You explain what you learned, how you learned and you show evidence of your development. Well done!

should stay

It is ok to say what you didn't know before or even what you still haven't manage to do. It shows that you are able to assess your learning needs and that is a valuable skill.

sentences

My roommate snored very loudly. So in order to sleep, I had to imagine I was on a cruise and he was the sound of the Atlantic Ocean.

The team did a great job and were always there when we needed them.

Roses are red. Violets are blue. I learned English poetry. For me that was new.

My learning process about this topic was like a washing machine. Sometimes it felt too fast and I was getting dizzy with so much information, but now I feel I got rid of some old ideas and I have some bright new colourful concepts to show.

should it stay or should it go?

should go

Ok, unless you will use this self-assessment to get a job as a stand-up comedian, you should focus on your learning journey, not on your sleeping challenges.

should go

Good for them. Good for you. Good for everyone! But your self-assessment is not about the team, it's about you.

should stay

A bit of fun and creativity won't harm your self-assessment. Just make sure it is useful in case you want to show it to potential employers, teachers or others, and that it expresses your learning outcomes accurately.

should stay

You can use images and metaphors to better explain your learning journey, just make sure that you don't get lost in the plot. It is fine to use your imagination but remember to mention what you have learned and how in concrete terms.