Choosing the Right Assessment

Learning Target	Assessment Method			
	Selected Response	Extended Written Response	Performance Assessment	Personal Communication
Knowledge Mastery	Good match for assessing mastery of elements of knowledge.	Good match for tapping understanding of relationships among elements of knowledge	Not a good match -- too time consuming to cover everything	Can be used if assessor asks questions, evaluates answers and infers mastery—but a time consuming option.
Reasoning Proficiency	Good match only for assessing understanding of some patterns of reasoning out of context.	Written descriptions of complex problem solutions can provide a window into reasoning proficiency (can be a written performance task)	Assessor can watch students solve some problems and infer their reasoning	Can be used if assessor asks student to "think aloud" or asks follow up questions to probe reasoning.
Skills	Not a good match. Can assess mastery of the knowledge the students need to perform the skill well, but cannot measure the skill itself.		Good match. Assessor can observe and evaluate skills as they are being performed	Strong match when skill is oral communication proficiency; not a good match otherwise.
Ability to Create Products	Not a good match. Can assess mastery of the knowledge students need to create quality products, but cannot assess the quality of the products themselves.	Strong match only when the product is written. Not a good match when the product is not written.	Good match. Can assess the attributes of the product itself.	Not a good match.

Adapted from Classroom Assessment for Student Learning: Doing it Right-Using it Well By R. Stiggins, J Arter, J Chappuis, and S. Chappuis, 2006, Portland , OR: ETS Assessment Training Institute.