Under the Microscope

STEPS IN THE FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT PROCESS SUPPORTED BY THIS TOOL:

- Understand target
- Produce work
- Compare work with target
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses
- Prescribe action for improvement
- Take action for improvement

HOW TO USE

- Identify a learning target and one assignment that you want students to analyze in detail. Remind students of the rubrics or other criteria for good work.
- Ask students to pretend they are putting their work under a microscope. Have them discuss briefly what microscopes do (enlarge images, make details visible, help us describe things). Point out that instead of enlarging their work, they will be looking at it over slowly and in detail, as you have to do when you look at things under a microscope.
- Have students write what they “see” in their work when they do this detailed review.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Look for accurate appraisal of the work against the criteria or performance standards.

NEXT STEPS

- If the work can be revised, have students use their notes as the basis for their revision.
- If revision is not appropriate for this work, ask students how they will apply what they learned from this exercise to their next similar assignment. Make sure a similar assignment is coming soon.

TIPS/VARIATIONS

- Students can do this in small groups or pairs, looking together at each other’s work and agreeing on points before they write them.
Under the Microscope

Look at your work on **essay on the Declaration of Independence**

Put your work “under the microscope.” Write a detailed description of what you see when you look over your work.

My essay is in five-paragraph essay format, and I have a solid main idea. The main point of my essay is about democracy, and that’s the main point of the Declaration, so that’s good. I don’t really think my essay says much more than what the Declaration already says, though. I should add some points about its effect on society or on me today. If I do that, I’ll have to reorganize the essay, and maybe spend less time on repeating stuff from the Declaration.
Under the Microscope

Look at your work on ____________________________________________

Put your work “under the microscope.” Write a detailed description of what you see when you look over your work.

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________