Nine Formative Evaluation Techniques to Build Effective Learning Solutions



Rationale for workshop

Formative evaluation

- Additional structure for your formative evaluations
- Confidence to ensure deliverables
- Improve the impact of your learning solutions



Takeaways

- Concept map
- Techniques job aid
- Three design templates
- Small group feedback
- Pilot feedback
- Implementation communication plan
- Generative AI prompts to learn more about formative evaluation



All about improving your learning solutions

- 1. Define
- 2. When to use
- 3. Who evaluates
- 4. Formative evaluation techniques
- 5. Wrap-up



All about improving your learning solutions

1. Define



Evaluation vs. assessment

Solutions are evaluated (value is judged)

People are assessed to discover their characteristics and competencies.



Formative evaluation

A process used to improve the

- Feasibility
- Effectiveness
- Clarity
- Impact
- of learning solutions

before implementation

|--|

Summative evaluation

A process used to validate

- Effectiveness
- Impact

of learning solutions after implementation

Should we continue the learning solution(s)?



Why Connect with Others?



"When the **cook** tastes the soup, that's formative."

"When the **guests** taste the soup, that's summative."

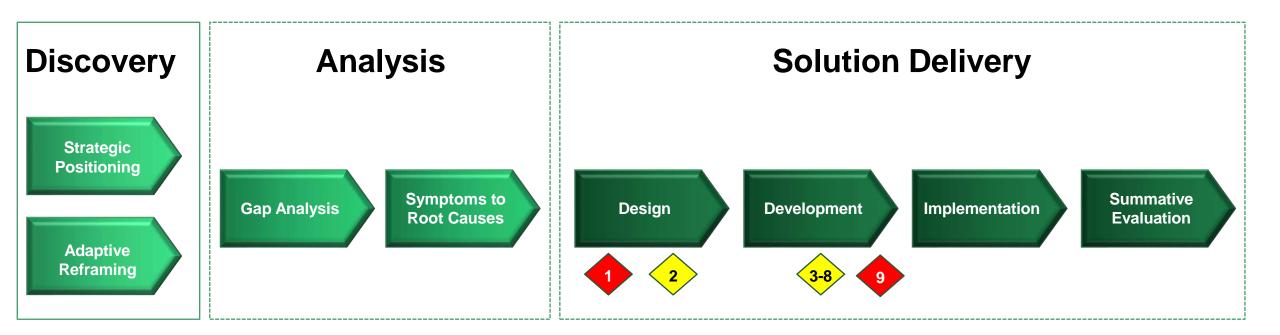
— Bob Stake

All about improving your learning solutions

- 1. Define
- 2. When to use



Performance Solution Process



Formative Evaluation Techniques

Design

1

High-level Design Approval

Detail Design Review

Development

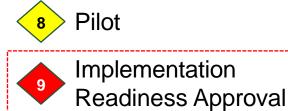
Subject-Matter Expert Walkthrough

Learner Walkthrough

Usability Testing

Technical Editing

Small-Group Session



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All about improving your learning solutions

- 1. Define
- 2. When to use
- 3. Who evaluates



Who evaluates?

Subject-matter experts Design experts Technical editors Sponsors Experienced performers New performers



Who evaluates?

Often mastered by trial-and-error

Practice skills often

Have trouble explaining how they learned

May have trouble explaining what they do (especially if it is a mental process)

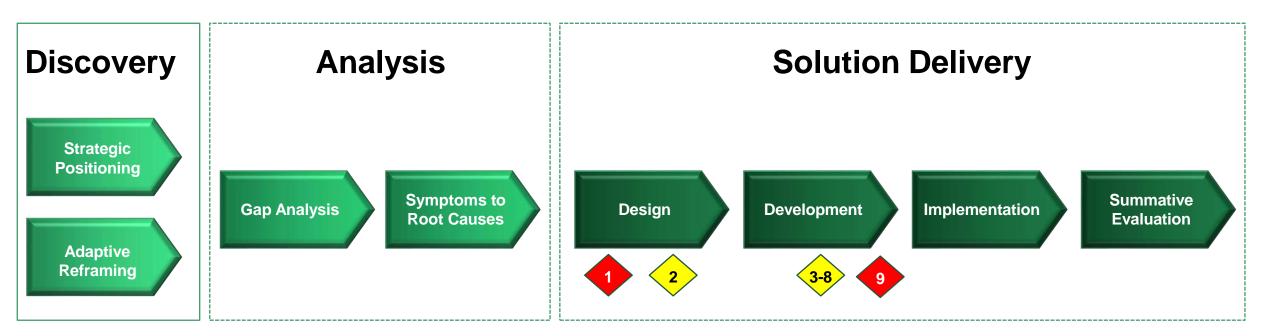


All about improving your learning solutions

- 1. Define
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- 3. Who evaluates
- 4. Formative evaluation techniques



Performance Solution Process



Formative Evaluation Techniques

Design



High-level Design Approval

Detail Design Review

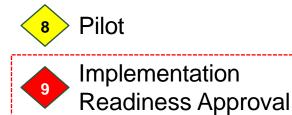
Development



Learner Walkthrough

- Usability Testing
- Technical Editing

Small-Group Session

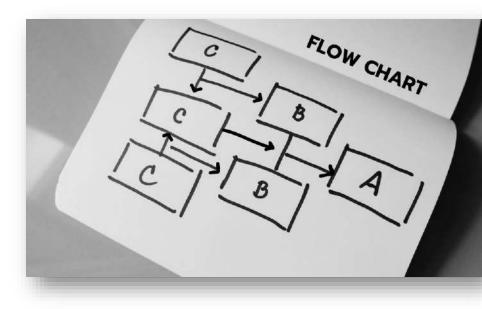


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Technique 1: High-level design approval

- 1. Learners
 - Environment
 - Tasks
- 2. Learning goals
- 3. Modules
 - Purpose
 - Delivery
 - Duration
- 4. Sequence

- 5. Assessment plans
- 6. Evaluation plans
 - Formative
 - Summative
- 7. Other deliverables
- 8. Maintenance



Template

High-level design template Informal version

Technique 2: Detailed design approval

- 1. Learning objectives
- 2. Module topics
 - Topics alignment with objectives
 - Content in topics
 - Instructor / Learner directives
 - Content development
 resources
 - Topic duration
- 3. Final deliverables
- 4. Assessment



Template

Detailed design template

Technique 3: SME walkthrough

- 1. Content
 - Is it right?
 - Is it complete?
 - Is it relevant for the audience?
- 2. Module and topic sequence
- 3. Exercises
- 4. Assessment



Technique 4: Learner walkthrough

- 1. Overall experience
 - Usability
 - Clarity
 - Engagement
 - Effectiveness
 - Sequence
 - Timing
- 2. Exercises
- 3. Assessments



Technique 5: Usability testing

- 1. Navigation
- 2. Interactivity
- 3. Timing
- 4. UI visual appeal
- 5. Error messages
- 6. Consistency
- 7. Accessibility
- 8. Performance (page/feature load)
- 9. User satisfaction



Technique 6: Technical editing

- 1. Spelling, grammar, and syntax
- 2. Clarity and conciseness
- 3. Consistency
- 4. Formatting and layout
- 5. Logical flow
- Technical quality (accuracy, completeness, and current)
- 7. Clarity of instructions

- 8. Audience appropriateness
- 9. Visual elements(labels and alt text)
- 10. Citations and references
- 11. Accessibility of content
- 12. Cross-references
- 13. Alignment with the design

Technique 7: Small-group session

- 1. Content delivery
- 2. Delivery timing
- 3. Technical editing
- 4. Exercises
- 5. Assessments (pre- and posttesting for comprehension and learning)



Template

Small group feedback template

Technique 8: Pilot

- 1. Content delivery
- 2. Delivery timing
- 3. Technical editing
- 4. Exercises
- 5. Assessments (pre- and posttesting for comprehension and learning)



Template

Pilot feedback template

Technique 9: Implementation readiness approval

- 1. Deliverable approval
- 2. Communication plan approval
- 3. Schedule
- 4. Monitoring plan
- 5. Summative evaluation plan



Template

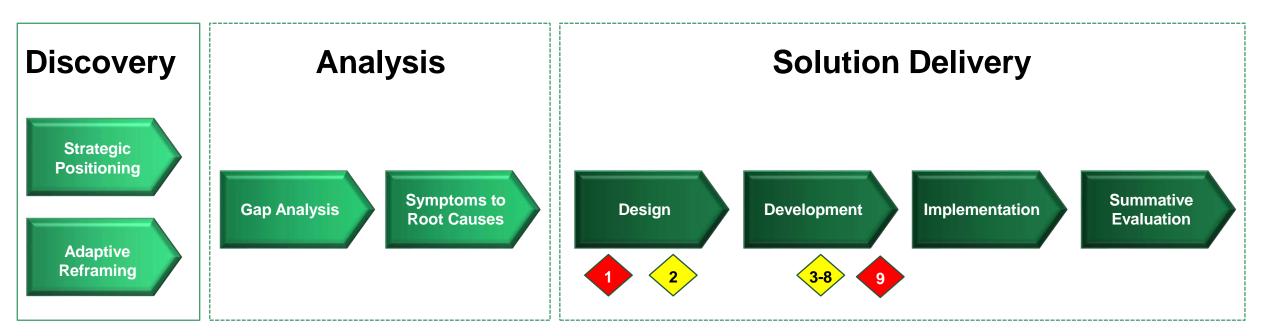
Communication plan template

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Performance Solution Process



Formative Evaluation Techniques

Design



High-level Design Approval

Detail Design Review

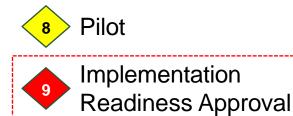
Development



Learner Walkthrough

- Usability Testing
- Technical Editing

Small-Group Session



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