





## EDPS 340 Interpretive Items

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## Interpretive Components

- Components
  - Starts with information/data
    - Maps
    - Paragraphs
    - Charts
    - Figures
    - Story
    - Table of data
    - Pictures
- Questions
  - require interpretation, analysis, or application of the material




## Interpretive Exercise

- **Usually begins with verbal, tabular or graphic information which is the basis for 1 or more questions.**
  - *map, passage from a story, a poem, a cartoon*
- **Exercise contains all information needed to answer questions**
- **Can challenge students at various levels of understanding**
  - *application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation*




## Interpretive Exercises (con't)

- If student answers incorrectly it is
  - because they have not mastered the thinking or reasoning required by the question
  - NOT because they failed to memorize background information.
- Math questions:
  - give students the formulas, test ability to apply concepts, rather than ability to memorize formulas.




## Interpretive Exercises

- Best type of short-answer or selected-response to assess reasoning
- Intent:
  - to focus on reasoning skills by providing all the knowledge or information that is needed to answer the question
  - but require students to reason about that information to answer the questions



## Guidelines for Writing Interpretive Items

- Identify the reasoning skills you are assessing before creating the exercise
- Be succinct when providing information
- Use novel, but similar information



### Guidelines for Writing Interpretive Items

- Construct several questions for each exercise
  - Several questions about the same information that require more types & greater depth of reasoning skills to answer
- Make sure answers to the questions can not be found in the information



### Advantages of Interpretive Items

- Focuses on reasoning
  - it separates reasoning from knowledge by providing all needed information
- Relatively easy to use authentic material
- Standard structure provides greater reliability in scoring



### Disadvantages of Interpretive Items

- Time-consuming & difficult to write
- Unable to assess how students organized their reasoning or whether they would be able to reason well if not given the cues
- Can rely heavily on reading comprehension