


*Research*


**EDPS 340 Essay Questions**

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**Essay Items**

- Can measure complex thinking (through organization, application, analysis, integration, or interpretation)
- Can be used to connect factual knowledge with procedural knowledge




**Types of Essay Questions**

- Restricted Response
  - Require relatively brief answers
  - Assess knowledge & simple understanding
- Extended Response
  - Assess deep understanding & reasoning




**Guidelines for Essay Items**

- Should be written to measure specific learning targets
- Should be a clear question that provides all the information needed to completely answer
- Should indicate how much time should be spent on each
- Should avoid giving students options



**Guidelines for Essay Scoring**

- Outline what is a good or acceptable answer
- Use a systematic process & score the same answer across all tests
- Keep student information anonymous



**Advantages of Essay Items**

- Can assess deep understanding & reasoning
- Motivate better study habits
- Flexibility in student response



## Disadvantages of Essay Items

- Time consuming to read & score
- Unreliable
- Not a very good sample of content knowledge