

Understanding Grades

Formative Grades

A **formative assessment** is administered while students are forming their knowledge of a new concept or skill. It is not an assessment of mastery. A formative assessment is used during the process of instruction, and the results of the assessment should be provided as feedback to the student and used by the teacher to guide the planning of future instruction to meet individual students' needs.

Summative Grades

A **summative assessment** is administered to determine the level to which students have mastered new concepts and skills. It is not an assessment of concepts and skills that have been merely introduced or briefly reviewed. A summative assessment is generally used at the end of an instructional unit.

What did my child score on their assignment?

It's a **formative** grade.

That means it goes in the 40% category.

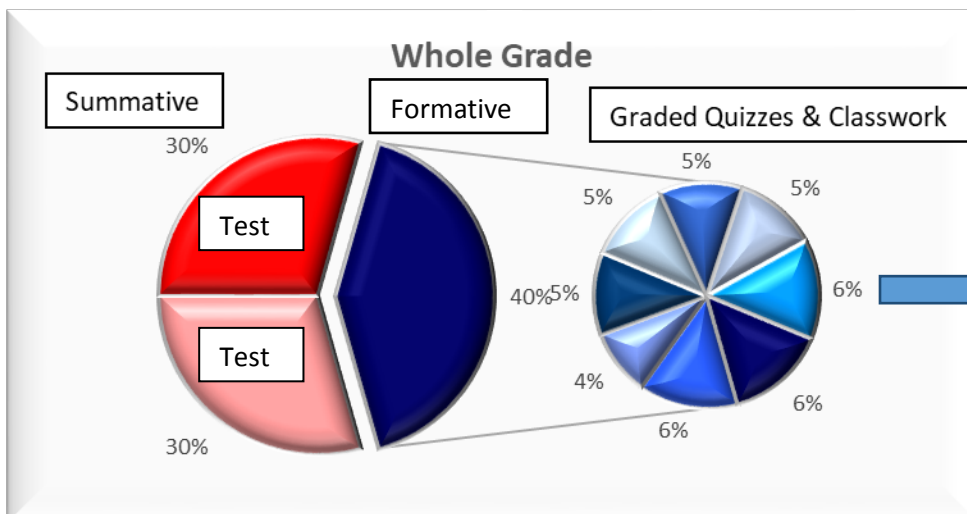
Category	Assignment	Score	%	Grade
Formative	Author's Perspective	9/13	69.23	D

They only missed 4 points. That could have been 1 or 2 questions.

Let me ask what information were they missing?

Was it one concept they need to work on?

That means that your child earned 9 points out of a total of 13 points. This means they added 9 points to their formative point bank, out of a total of 13 point opportunities. When reviewing formative grades, it is important to view the grade in terms of how many points were earned, rather than as a percentage and/or letter grade. There is something that they need to learn before the **summative** test.



This formative grade counts as 6% of their whole grade in the class.