

DATA LAB: Assessment “Experts” at Play

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In a DATA LAB...

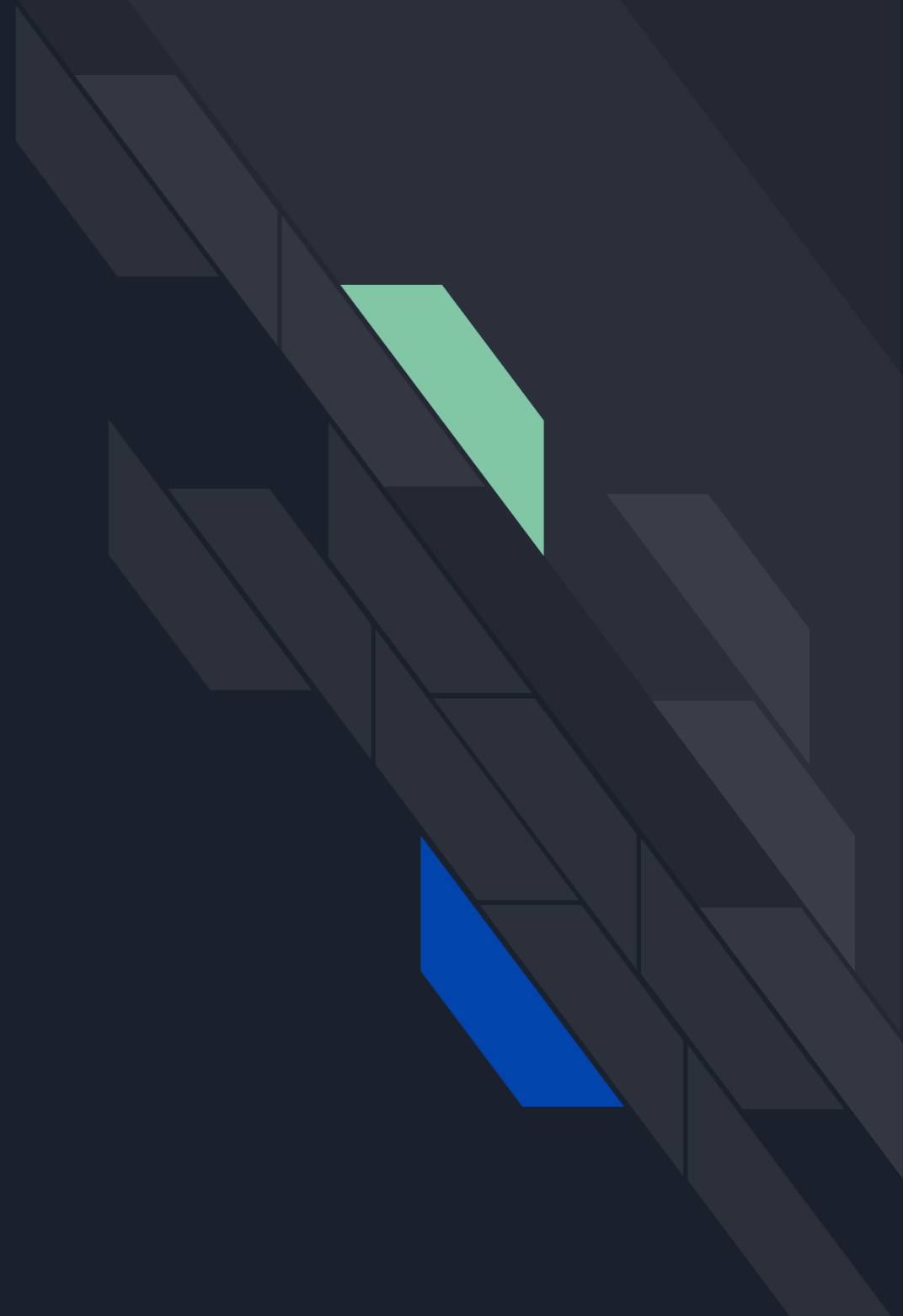
...stakeholders with a common investment in a program, class, or shared experience come together to look carefully at artifacts (data) that emerge from their collaborations, and ask a series of guided questions about these artifacts.



DATA LAB questions...

What are we learning about
(focus of the data lab) from this
data?

What do we wish we knew? or,
What does the data not tell us
that we want to know?



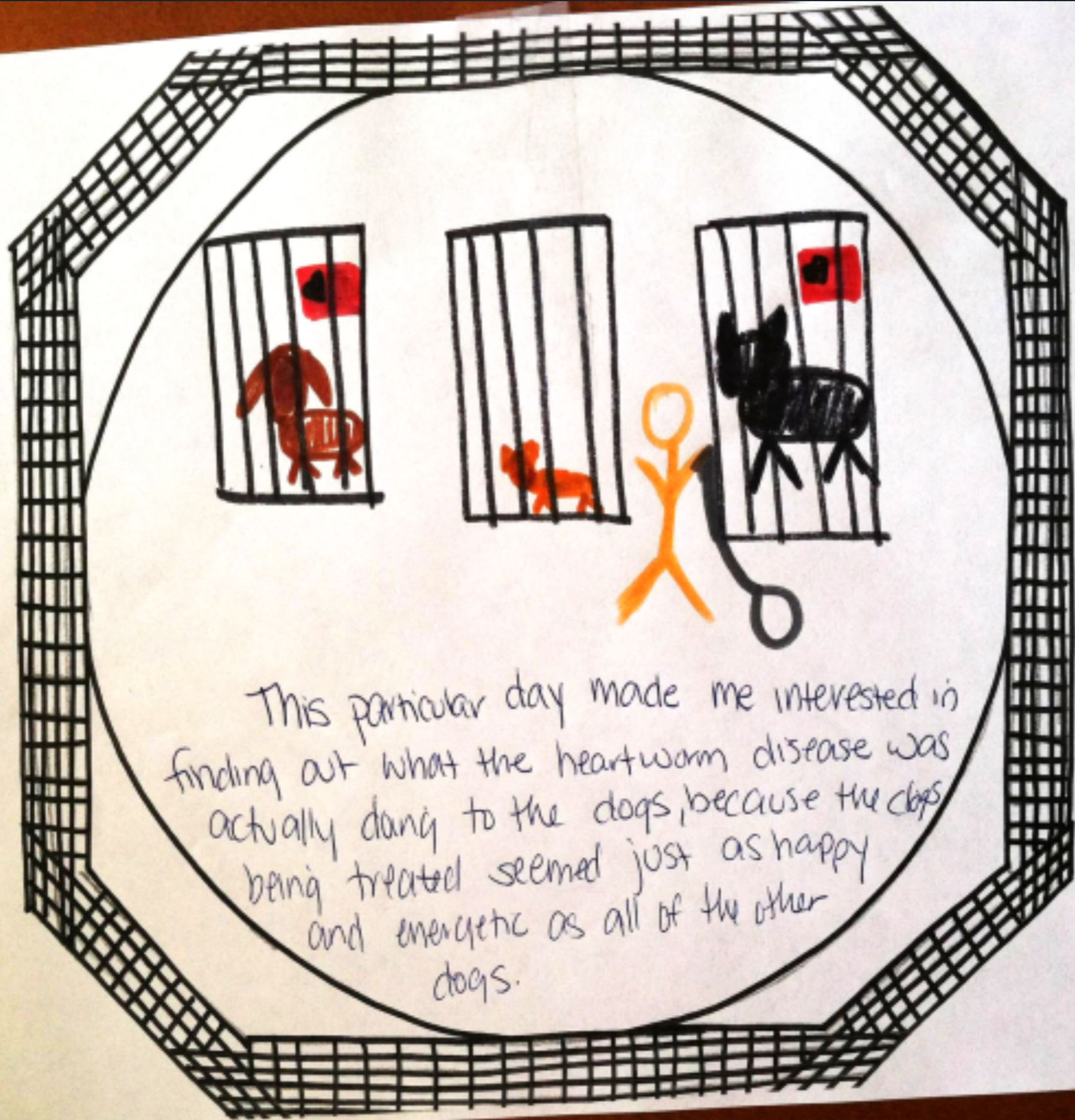


Example Station:

Pensieve, Harry Potter Theme

Pick one essay and read it. The assignment in this class was for students to notice something at their service site that raised a biochemical question that they could answer while researching biochemical literature.

Using the pensieve worksheet, draw a picture of the moment that you see in the pensieve (in the student essay), in which the student identifies the connection to biochemistry.




This particular day made me interested in finding out what the heartworm disease was actually doing to the dogs, because the dogs being treated seemed just as happy and energetic as all of the other dogs.



Commitments of democratic engagement


- With (not merely *in, on, to, for*).
- Asset-based (not merely needs-based).
- Multi-dimensional flow of ideas and questions within a web of knowledge centers.
- Collaborations that involved not merely transactional but that are potentially transformative (of self, others, organizations/institutions, systems, paradigms).
- Co-roles / powershift / disruption of hierarchy--all partners positioned as co-creators.

“Democratically Engaged Assessment: Re-Imagining the Purposes and Practices of Assessment in Community Engagement,” Imagining America’s Assessing the Practices of Public Scholarship (APPS) working group, including co-authors Joe Bandy, Anna Bartel, Sylvia Gale, Georgia Nigro, Mary F. Price, & Sarah Stanlick, with Patti H. Clayton. Manuscript on file, available by request.



What if assessment were grounded in democratically engaged values?

- Full Participation
- Co-creation
- Generativity
- Rigor
- Practicability
- Resilience



What if assessment were a high-impact practice?

- Involves meaningful effort.
- Helps participants build substantive relationships with each other.
- Engages participants across differences.
- Provides participants with rich feedback about their work.
- Helps participants apply and test what they are learning about student learning to their programming and teaching.
- Provides opportunities for participants to reflect on the people their students are becoming.

DATA LABs...

Develop
programs based
on evidence.

Measure learning.

Build a culture of inquiry.



Civic identity is...

...being fully engaged, fully human citizens of their communities [who] see their role in life as contributing to the long-term greater good.

Knefelkamp, L.L. Civic Identity: Locating Self in Community. Diversity & Democracy, 11 (2) 2008.

...best understood as a set of beliefs and emotions about oneself as a participant in civic life.

Luyckx, K., Schwartz, S., Vignoles, V (2008). Handbook of Identity Theory and Development. Springer, NY, NY.



Magnifying Lens

Station 1

Archaeologists study human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture (i.e. artifacts). Today, we are archaeologists and our tool is a magnifying lens.

The artifact is presentation given by a senior Bonner Scholar reflecting about the development of his/her civic identity.

In the lens of the magnifying glass, record quotes you hear that reveal the student's civic identity. Outside of the magnifying glass, record other insights the student learned from his/her community engagement experiences not directly related to their civic identity.



Magnifying Lens

Presentation of Learning





DATA LAB questions...

What are we learning about students' development of civic identity from this data?

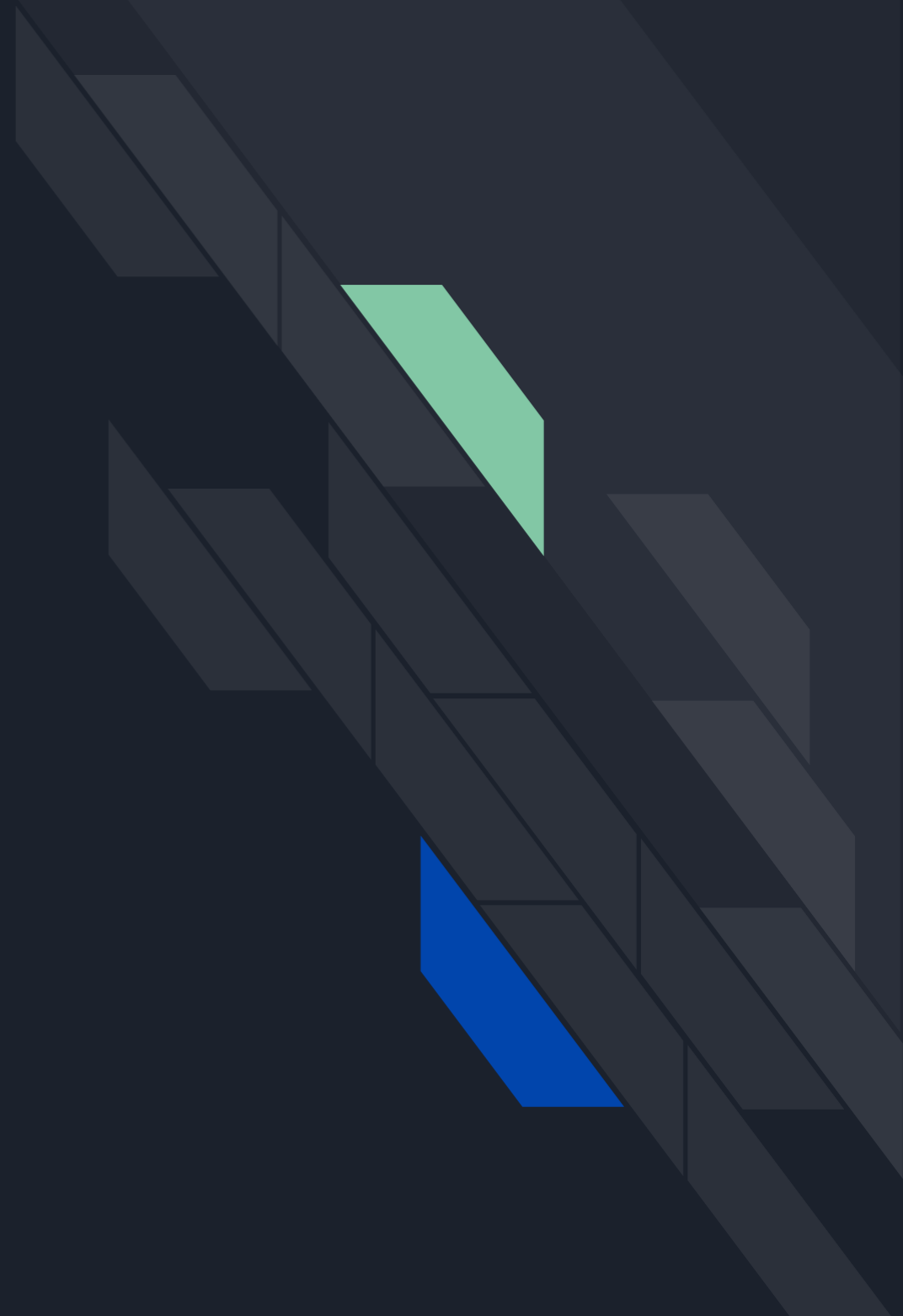
What do we wish we knew? What does the data not tell us that we want to know?

DATA LAB reflection...

What was different about this way of relating to data than the other ways you usually analyze data?

What effects did the playfulness and creativity of data labs have on your analysis? Your engagement in the exercise?

What are applications of the data lab method to your work?





The difference the DATA LAB has made...

- Shifted our culture from “my students” to “our students,” helping us break out of program silos.
- Helped us develop new data streams.
- Assessment has become a shared area of learning, rather than a burden.