As a teacher, conducting assessments carries tremendous importance and responsibility. When conducting student assessments, it is important that all students have a fair chance at taking the test in a positive and safe environment. There should be no noisy distractions and students should have good lighting and proper materials to complete the test. Another thing I must ensure is that I dictate verbal directions clearly and in an audible voice at a consistent pace. Students should not have to repeatedly ask me to repeat myself. It is my job to ensure that I conduct myself in an ethical manner and adhere to all policies and guidelines. For example, I must make sure that I am not giving away answers or guiding to choose correct responses.

One of my major responsibilities is making sure that all student needs are met so that when testing day comes they are fully prepared. This begins with how I structure my classroom. It is important for me to differentiate content and lessons so that all students are able to understand and learn the content. For example, if I have a group of students that are low in math, I need to make sure I possibly incorporate small groups into my day so that those students are taught the content needed to succeed in class and on assessments. Likewise, my grade level and above grade level students need to be challenged so that they are continuously engaged in the content and do not lose interest, which will hurt them in the long run.

It is important that prior to testing all of my students have the proper accommodations and modifications in place. Some students may need testing accommodations where how the test is presented may need to change. This can include longer time or larger print on the test. Other students may need testing modifications where the actual test objectives are modified to
meet the needs of the learner. The teacher must make sure proper resources are in place before testing day.

Classroom instruction should allow for meaningful experiences with content so that students are able to better learn content. Students should have frequent practice with concepts prior to assessments so that they are able to master the content. It is important to provide content in different methods for different types of learners such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners. Varying ‘who’ is teaching is also an effective approach. Students should be able to engage in student-led, small-group activities and partner work. It is also important to teach with the end in mind so that you know how to focus and structure lessons to yield the best outcome on assessments. All of these practices can lead to better success on assessments and help students reach their learning goals.