Planning an Assessment Project: 
Assessment Questions Framework

Steps in this framework:
1. Identify the need
2. Define the assessment question
3. Begin to write the answer
4. Develop implementation plan

1. Identify Needs: We need to know...
   - Why students are not using our services.
   - If students are learning what we intend for them to learn.
   - If students are satisfied.
   - If our website is effective.
   - If our programming is having an impact.
   - If we are using our resources effectively.
   - If we are achieving our goals.

2. Define Assessment Question
   The assessment question serves to drive the rest of the process.
   Turn the issue into a specific question.
   May need more than one question (e.g., one per student learning outcome).
   This is not about writing specific survey questions.

3. Begin to Write the Answer
   - Thinking about writing the results should help guide the assessment plan.
   - Better alignment between what you need to measure and the methodology/ies chosen.
   - What do you need to be able to say and how should you be able to say it?

   75% of SLU students agree that they can change the world.

   75% of SLU students are changing the world.

4. Develop Implementation Plan
   - What?
     - What specific data do we need to collect?
   - Who?
     - Who is responsible for implementing this assessment?
   - When?
     - When are we collecting this data? (i.e., What is the timeline for data collection?)
   - How?
     - How will we collect this data? (i.e., What resources will be used to collect the data?)
   - Why?
     - Why are we collecting this data? (i.e., What do we plan to do with it?)

An Example

1. Identify the need
   I need to know if students achieved the outcome I had intended, specifically, if they are able to identify key aspects of the Jesuit mission as a result of participating in U101.

2. Define assessment question
   How many students in my U101 section can identify key aspects of the Jesuit mission?
   (Notice the question is NOT: how many students agree that they can identify...)

3. Begin to write the answer
   (Insert number or percent here) of students were able to identify key aspects of the Jesuit mission.
An Example

4. Develop implementation plan
   • What: Each student needs to list the key aspects of the Jesuit mission
   • Who: Myself
   • When: At the end of the semester I will ask students to write the aspects down and turn them in.
   • How: Class time and their pen/paper. Or a student response tool. I will need to make a list of acceptable key aspects and determine how many of them each student included in their list. From there I can determine how many of my students are able to do this.
   • Why: If my students are not learning this I will need to adjust my lesson plan.