

# Assessment for future learning



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*Improving students' abilities to monitor quality.*

In higher education settings, assessment tasks usually get the attention of students, but once their work is submitted students are often disengaged with the assessment process, becoming passive recipients. Future learning oriented assessment engages students in the assessment process to improve both short and long-term outcomes by helping students to make “increasingly sophisticated judgments about their learning” (Boud & Falchikov, 2007, p. 186).

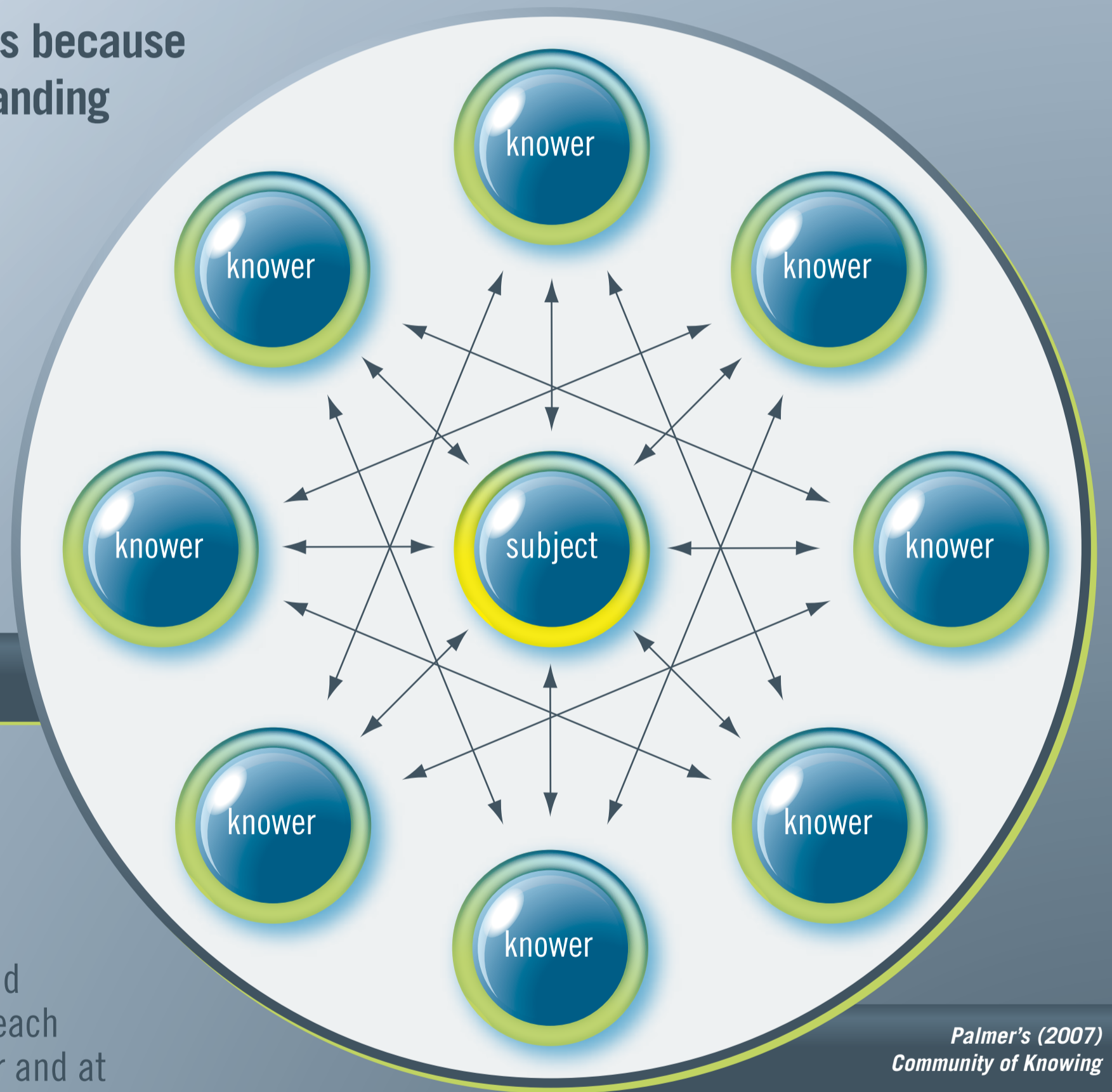
Self- and peer-assessment are the key tools because they require students to develop an understanding about the quality of a piece of work. The added bonus is a stronger alignment between the teacher's values of learner-centred teaching and his/her assessment practices by shifting the focus off the teacher and onto the subject - as in Palmer's (2007) *Community of Knowing*.

## Facilitating change

Staff from the Faculty of Education were invited to participate in a collaborative process encouraging them to design and trial some future-learning oriented assessment processes. Supported by educational designers, the volunteers have engaged in a half-day workshop, online discussions, and individual consultations. The participants will support each other as they implement their innovations this semester and at the conclusion of the project they will share their findings with Faculty of Education staff.

Some examples of planned innovations include:

- Requiring students to create a Wiki for a group project, using peer assessment of each other's contributions, which can be tracked.
- Peer-reviewed individual presentations
- A mathematical competency test for first year pre-service teachers designed to reduce levels of mathematical anxiety through peer assessment.



Palmer's (2007)  
*Community of Knowing*

## References

Boud, D., & Falchikov, N. (2007). Developing assessment for informing judgement. In D. Boud & N. Falchikov (Eds.), *Rethinking assessment in higher education: Learning for the longer term* (pp. 181-197). London: Routledge.

Palmer, P. J. (2007). *The courage to teach: Exploring the inner landscape of a teacher's life* (10th anniversary ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.