

Decision Considerations

Article 6

Wall, Janet E., (2000) *Technology-Delivered Assessment: Diamonds or Rocks?* ERIC/CASS Digest.
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This publication provides an analogy of technology to present the positives and negatives associated with online assessment: *Technology-Delivered Assessment: Diamonds or Rocks?* “Diamonds” include the following benefits: accessibility; immediate feedback; more efficient testing; judging portfolio information; ability to assess higher order skills; and helping persons with disabilities. “Rocks” include the negative aspects of online testing: lack of accessibility; test security problems; concerns about test taker identity; issues of privacy/confidentiality; lack of information on the quality of the instrument and the assumption that it meets professional testing standards; problems with test comparability, gender, racial, and ethnic disparities; reporting and interpretation; lack of human contact; and issues of familiarity with technology. In summary, professionals need to be aware of the issues surrounding online testing including assessment construction, production, administration and interpretation of tests delivered via the computer or Internet.