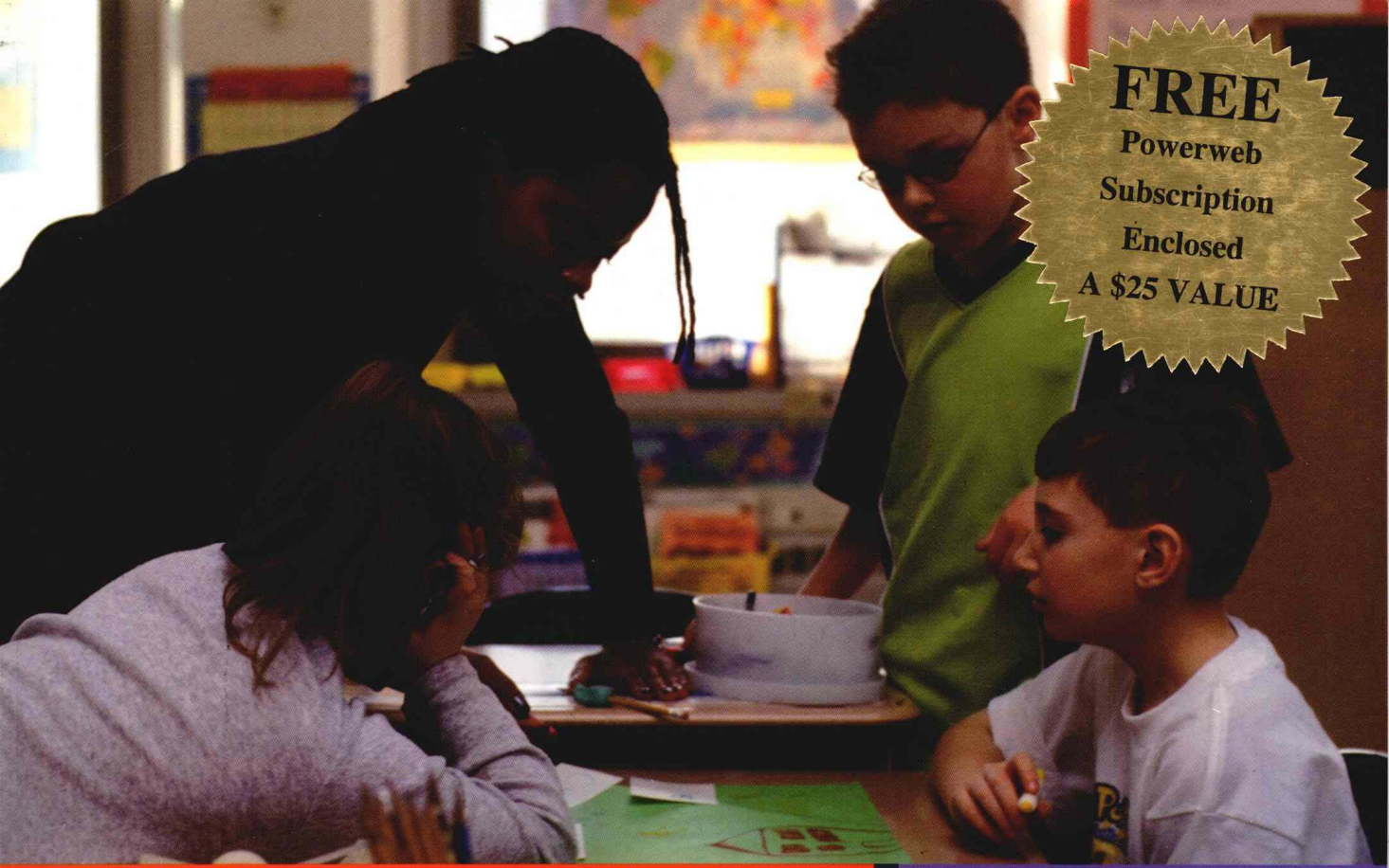

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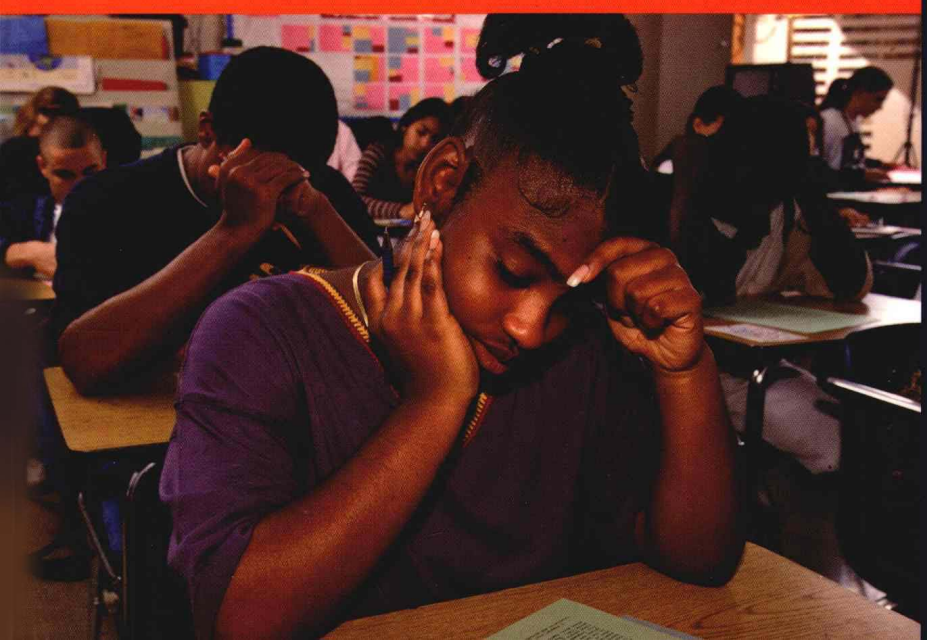

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CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS

PETER W. AIRASIAN
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CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT: KEY CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS, FIFTH EDITION

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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 FGR/FGR 0 9 8 7 6

ISBN-13: 978-0-07-248869-2
ISBN-10: 0-07-248869-7

Publisher: *Emily Barosse*
Sponsoring editor: *David S. Patterson*
Senior developmental editor: *Cara Harvey*
Developmental editors: *Beth Kaufman, Alan Venable*
Senior marketing manager: *Pamela S. Cooper*
Media producer: *Shannon Gattens*
Project manager: *Richard H. Hecker*
Associate production supervisor: *Jason Huls*
Senior designer: *Violetta Diaz*
Media project manager: *Meghan Durko*
Associate photo research coordinator: *Natalia C. Peschiera*
Photo researcher: *Natalia Peschiera*
Cover design: *Lisa Buckley*
Cover images: © *Eric Fowke/Photo Edit;* © *Bob Daemmrich/The Image Works*
Typeface: *10/12 Valjovic*
Compositor: *Shepherd, Inc.*
Printer: *Quebecor World Fairfield Inc.*

Library Of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Airasian, Peter W.
Classroom assessment : concepts and applications / Peter W. Airasian.—5th ed.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0-07-248869-7 (softcover : alk. paper)
1. Educational tests and measurements—United States. 2. Academic achievement—United States—Testing. 3. Education—United States—Evaluation. I. Title.

LB3051.A5627 2005
371.26'0973—dc22 2004049358

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CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT

I dedicate this book
to Lynn and Greg, and
always, to Gwen.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter W. Airasian is Professor of Education at Boston College, where he is Chair of the Department of Counseling, Developmental Psychology, and Research Methods. His main teaching responsibilities are instructing pre- and in-service teachers in classroom assessment. He received his PhD degree from the University of Chicago, with a concentration in assessment and evaluation. He is a former high school chemistry and biology teacher. He is coauthor of *Minimal Competency Testing* (1979), *School Effectiveness: A Reassessment of the Evidence* (1980), *The Effects of Standardized Testing* (1982), *Assessment in the Classroom* (1996), *Teacher Self-Evaluation Tool Kit* (2001), *Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching, & Assessing: A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives* (2001), and *Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Applications* (2002), as well as many articles on classroom assessment and testing. He is past Chair of the American Educational Research Association's Special Interest Group on Classroom Assessment. Currently, he is studying the process classroom teachers use to assess themselves.

PREFACE

A Conceptual and Applied Approach

This is a textbook for students taking a first course in classroom assessment. As in previous editions, the goal of *Classroom Assessment: Concepts and Applications,* fifth edition, is to show how skilled assessment underlies a teacher's craft, driving decisions in planning and in the course of teaching itself. The text is organized to relate the principles of assessment to the natural progression of a teacher's work—from organizing the classroom as a social setting, to planning and conducting instruction based upon sound objectives, to the formal assessment of pupil learning, to grading students, and finally to interpreting standardized tests and statewide assessments. The goal is to show students that assessment is an ongoing part of teaching, not some esoteric activity divorced from the daily classroom routine.

The ability to construct and use classroom assessments is an essential educational skill for all teachers. Ongoing formal and informal classroom assessments provide teachers with the information they need to monitor and make decisions about their teaching and their students' learning. Increasingly, teachers must address not only their own traditional classroom assessments, but also those required by external sources of assessment such as statewide testing and standardized tests. This text covers the broad range of assessments that confront teachers both in their classrooms and beyond. Each type of assessment is presented with attention to both concepts and application, so students will understand the reasons and cautions that are inherent in the assessments they construct and interpret.

Proven Features and Content

This edition includes many of the features of prior editions.

Realistic Assessment: The focus throughout is on the realities of classrooms and how assessments can serve these realities.

Validity and Reliability: These central assessment concepts are introduced in the first chapter and then linked in later chapters to each specific type of assessment information. The validity and reliability issues of informal assessment, planning and delivering instruction, grading, using

paper-and-pencil tests, performance assessments, and standardized testing are identified. Practical strategies to improve validity and reliability of varied assessment approaches are presented in each chapter.

Practical Guidelines: A significant portion of each chapter focuses on practical guidelines to follow and common errors to avoid when using the type of assessment being presented. The implications of ignoring the recommendations are also described.

Teacher Thinking: Throughout the text, excerpts from teachers about assessment add the wisdom of day-to-day practice to assessment situations.

Student-Friendly Writing Style: The text is written with a clear, friendly, and accessible style and is well integrated with examples and tables to thoroughly engage students.

New to the Fifth Edition

The fifth edition of *Classroom Assessment* has been expanded to include a number of helpful features.

Thinking About Teaching: Questions at the opening of each chapter prompt students to put chapter topics into the context of the classroom.

Case Studies: Accessible through the Online Learning Center, case studies bring chapter topics to life.

Key Assessment Tools: These boxes, at least two for each chapter, highlight practical resources and tools to use in the assessment process.

Assessment and Technology: These boxes highlight ways to use technology in assessment.

No Child Left Behind: New coverage of No Child Left Behind legislation and expanded coverage of high-stakes testing is provided.

Children with Special Needs: The assessment of children with special needs has been integrated into many chapters of this book.

Test Construction: Coverage of ways to construct student tests has been greatly expanded.

Online Learning Center. Located at www.mhhe.com/airasian5e, this center includes a student study guide with practice quizzes, case studies, Web links, and PowerWeb current news articles.

In addition to the above improvements, instructors who have used the fourth edition will notice that the coverage of educational objectives has been expanded to two chapters, and that performance assessment is now covered in one chapter instead of two.

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McGraw-Hill's Primis Online is an ideal solution for instructors looking for a briefer assessment text—whether to fit the need of a one-credit course or a course that covers several major topics. Through Primis Online you can choose the material you want to use from *Classroom Assessment* and, if you wish, mix and match materials from other McGraw-Hill texts. Create a custom text for consideration for your course, or order as many different books as you like. There is no cost to you, no obligation, and no minimum number of student copies per order.

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Supplements that Accompany Classroom Assessment

For the Instructor

Instructor's Manual: An updated and expanded instructor's manual is available on the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM.

Test Bank: An updated test bank, in Microsoft Word and as a computerized test bank, is available on the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM.

PowerPoint Slides: PowerPoint slides are now available on the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM and on the instructor's area of the Online Learning Center.

For the Student

Online Learning Center: The new Online Learning Center at www.mhhe.com/airasian5e includes practice quizzes (with feedback), a student study guide, case studies, examples of assessment tools, Web links, PowerWeb articles, and PowerWeb current news articles.

Acknowledgments

With appreciation for their efforts to improve this work, I acknowledge the following reviewers whose frank and detailed suggestions added much to this revision:

Linda Espey, Drake University

Jean Ann Foley, Northern Arizona University

Theresa Harris, Coppin State College

Mahnaz Moallem, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Patricia Morrell, University of Portland

Bruce G. Rogers, University of Northern Iowa

Terry H. Stepka, Arkansas State University

Beth Kaufman of McGraw-Hill was exceptionally supportive in the development of this revision. Alan Venable and Cara Harvey provided suggestions that greatly improved the edition.

Damian Bebell, Miguel Ramos, James W. Cheng, and Dana Diaconu provided suggestions during the writing.

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