



Self-Assessment—Truth or Myth?

Directions: Read each statement. Indicate in the “before” column whether you think each statements is truth or myth. The answers will be revealed during the session. When you hear the answer during the session, check the truth or myth box in the “after column.”

Statement:	Before	After
1. The Office of Head Start recommends that programs use the aligned monitoring tools to conduct Self-Assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
2. Self-Assessment involves gathering a lot of new data.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
3. Self-Assessment team members must have prior experience with data analysis.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
4. Best practice in Self-Assessment is to conduct the process once a year.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
5. The director controls the Self-Assessment process at every phase, from designing the process to reporting out.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
6. Having team members from the community who bring an outside perspective and fresh eyes to the SA team is one of the key features of a comprehensive process.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
7. The focus of Self-Assessment is solving problems and confirming compliance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
8. Training on data-collection techniques (e.g., classroom observations, review of children’s files) is strongly recommended for Self-Assessment team members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
9. If your Self-Assessment team is large, you may choose to form smaller groups (or subgroups) to focus on a specific topic.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth
10. The Self-Assessment report is used only to report to the Regional Office.	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth	<input type="checkbox"/> Truth <input type="checkbox"/> Myth

SA Truth/Myth Answer Key:

1.) The Office of Head Start (OHS) recommends that programs use the aligned monitoring tools to conduct Self-Assessment. (Myth)

OHS does not recommend that you use the aligned monitoring tools. Self-Assessment is a locally designed process. There is no specific instrument that is either required or recommended.

2.) Self-Assessment involves gathering a lot of new data. (Myth)

Self-Assessment is focused on reviewing and analyzing ongoing monitoring (OGM) results and other data your program has collected, along with multiyear data.

3.) Self-Assessment team members must have prior experience with data analysis. (Myth, although a tricky one)

Self-Assessment team members need not be well-versed in USING positive data approaches, but they need to be willing and open to LEARNING about use of positive approaches to data analysis.

4.) Best practice in Self-Assessment is to conduct the process once a year. (Truth)

5.) The director controls the Self-Assessment process at every phase, from designing the process to reporting out. (Myth)

The director is instrumental in designing the process, recruiting Self-Assessment team members, and developing the final report. He or she empowers the SA team to investigate, review, wonder, and dialogue among their own subgroups to move the SA process along efficiently and effectively. He or she does not *control* the process, though.

6.) Having team members from the community who bring an outside perspective and fresh eyes to the SA team is one of the key features of a comprehensive process. (Truth)

7.) The focus of Self-Assessment is solving problems and confirming compliance. (Myth)

Self-Assessment focuses on the strengths of the program in order to a) highlight progress on goals and objectives, and b) allow for innovations. Self-Assessment is *not* focused on compliance. That is the work of ongoing monitoring.

8.) Training on data-collection techniques (e.g., classroom observations, review of children's files) is strongly recommended for Self-Assessment team members. (Myth, although a tricky one)

Training on data collection techniques (e.g., comparison, trends, averages) and on team

approaches that promote inquiry is strongly recommended. Data-collection is *not* the focus or intent of Self-Assessment.

9.) If your Self-Assessment team is large, you may choose to form smaller groups (or, subgroups) to focus on a specific topic. (Truth)

Each program can apply its own unique plans for creating and making subgroups out of the larger team, as needed, as well as choosing leaders of the subgroups within the Self-Assessment team.

10.) The Self-Assessment report is used only to report to the Regional Office. (Myth)

The Self-Assessment report informs program planning and ongoing monitoring. Results from the Self-Assessment are used to revisit ongoing goals and objectives and to make plans for innovations. Prior to being submitted to the Regional Office, it must be approved by Policy Council and the governing body.