Assessment

Assessment is a *process* that answers some *specific referral question*.

1. **Behavioral Observation** – the most basic approach to assessment.
   a. Information is easily obtained and may even employ basic checklists.
   b. Your mere presence may change the environment
      i. May want to use some unobtrusive measure so as not to change the environment.
   c. Issues of *bias* also exist especially on the part of the observer, such as a confirmation bias.
   d. Also issues of inter-rater reliability

2. **The Interview** – This is the cornerstone of the assessment process
   a. May ask open or closed ended questions
   b. Interviewing requires practice and improves with experience
   c. Can be a *structured interview* or an *unstructured interview*

3. **Standardized Tests** – This is the most widely relied upon part of the assessment, especially for those not familiar with assessment in general and involves giving the interviewee a series of standardized subtests.
a. Each standardized test has rules for administration and the interpretation of that test.
b. Remember that it is only *part* of the assessment process and should answer a *specific* question.
c. Norms for the instrument are established during the development of the instrument by administering it to a large number of respondents of varying ages.
d. **Objective Tests** – Include personality, intelligence, & neuropsychological tests
   i. Less chance of misinterpretation
   ii. Reduced bias on the part of the examiner (confirmation bias)
   iii. Reduced bias on the part of the subject (maybe)
   iv. Includes the MMPI-2, MCMI, and 16PF
e. **Subjective Tests** – Includes mostly personality tests and are typically based on psychodynamic theory
   i. More chance of misinterpretation
   ii. Tests may or may not be standardized
   iii. Increased bias on the part of the examiner & subject
   iv. Includes the Rorschach Inkblot Test (and other), TAT, & CAT, as well as many sentence completion tests.