Advantages of Alternate Assessments

**Portfolio**

1. Accommodates diverse student learning styles and needs, especially for Limited-English-Speaking students
2. Gains evidence of performance beyond factual knowledge
3. Makes learning meaningful by giving students a more active role in their own assessment
4. Focuses on how students learn and how they see themselves as learners
5. Serves as a springboard for interaction with students and their families and allows parents to understand their child’s progress over time
6. Used as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of instructional strategies
7. Aids in individualizing instruction for each student
8. Helps make mathematics relevant to students and their real-life situations
9. Creates a sense of ownership, builds responsibility for learning, raises self-esteem by showcasing outstanding work
10. Offers concrete evidence of the quality of students’ work, providing teachers with a comprehensive and authentic means of evaluating student progress

**Observation and Interview**

1. Gives all students the ability to accomplish the task and show mathematical power
2. Gives students an opportunity to use mathematical tools and techniques
3. Encourages cooperative group work and makes students comfortable and confident working with others
4. Helps students review and restate just-learned information
5. Helps students construct meaning
6. Increases students’ verbal skills in communicating the results of their mathematical thinking
7. Builds and deepens student understanding of mathematical concepts
8. Accommodates diverse student-learning styles and needs, especially for Limited-English-Speaking students
9. Aids in individualizing instruction for each student
10. Gives student and teacher concrete evidence of what they know or do not know

**Journal Writing**

1. Applies and transfers previous knowledge to new situations
2. Gives all students the ability to accomplish the task and show mathematical power
3. Helps students increase creative writing skills
4. Helps students explore their feelings about mathematics
5. Provides teachers with valuable information on students’ prior knowledge and what they do or do not understand
6. Builds and deepens student understanding of mathematical concepts
7. Accommodates diverse student learning styles and gives Limited-English-Speaking students an opportunity to write in their native language
8. Helps students review and restate just-learned information
9. Helps students construct meaning
10. Increases students’ skills in communicating the results of their mathematical thinking