

CTEL Course Resource Guide

Providing Constructive Feedback in the Classroom

Key Concepts & Highlights

Feedback is a critical component of learning. It helps students understand their current progress and identify ways to grow and improve. Effective classroom feedback also gives students practical strategies they can apply as they revise their work and continue developing their skills.

Recommended Strategies & Practices for Implementation

1. Strategy: Use a Multifaceted Approach to Feedback

Why it matters:

A combination of text- and video-based feedback can support stronger student work and more substantive revisions. Text is useful for detailed comments, while video can add relational and personal value.

How to implement:

- Use video feedback for assignments such as class projects or discussion posts.
- In D2L, use the built-in recorder in the feedback section to create a video response.
- Keep recordings brief and personable, with a focus on connecting with the student and personalizing the learning experience.

2. Strategy: Create a Culture of Feedback

Why it matters:

Establishing regular feedback between instructors and students supports effective communication. Helping students understand the value of feedback can also increase the likelihood that they will use it to improve their learning.

How to implement:

- Make iterative and reciprocal feedback part of the assignment sequence. For example, divide a term paper or project into several deliverables that incorporate feedback.
- Encourage feedback from instructors to students and from students to instructors.
- Consider gathering student feedback about the course early and midway through the semester.

- Let students know that their feedback is valued and used to improve the classroom experience.

3. Strategy: Incorporate Peer Feedback

Why it matters:

Peer review should not replace instructor feedback, but it can help students become more intentional about how their own work aligns with learning outcomes as they prepare to offer feedback to others.

How to implement:

- Model expectations by providing a peer-review demonstration.
- Provide clear guidelines, such as a rubric, explaining how the work should be assessed.
- Encourage feedback that identifies both what was done well and what could be improved.

Quick Tips

- Responsive: Provide feedback in a timely manner.
- Effective: Align feedback with the assignment objectives and rubric.
- Positive: Use language with positive and encouraging connotations.
- Learning: Include specific suggestions for how the student can improve.
- You: Personalize responses and include relational feedback when appropriate.

Additional Resources

Using Rubrics to Provide Student Feedback: Guidance for using rubrics to support student feedback.

Examples of Effective Text- and Video-Based Feedback: Examples comparing text-based and relational video-based feedback.

Providing Meaningful Feedback: Suggestions for providing meaningful feedback in distance learning.