eLearning & Distance Education

iDESIGN

Feedback Mechanism

for Online Assignments

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Providing rapid, or timely, substantive feedback to students is extremely important for student success in an online course. When developing your course, think about how you will want to give both personal and general feedback to your students on a regular basis.

Feedback should encourage self-reflection, raise self-awareness and help students plan for future learning and practice.

FEEDBACK ATTRIBUTES

- TIMELY – feedback should be given as soon as possible after a student submits an assignment so the process or interpretation is fresh in the student's min, before student's move on to the next assessment. For assignments (activities, etc.) that are submitted online, it's very important to acknowledge receipt of the student's work, even if you don't immediately review it. A reminder as to when you will be doing your grading should also be relayed to the student.

- SPECIFIC – feedback should provide encouragement by identifying good or successful elements. Keep your language clear, concise, and alway write for understanding. Think carefully about avoiding confusio caused by sarcasm, humor, abstract concepts, technical language or abbreviations.

- CONSTRUCTIVE – provide suggestions to make student's work better. Consider phrasing negative comments in question form, rather than as statements. Give suggestions for follow-up or resubmission (if necessary or allowed) and give additional resources for students to review.

- PERTINENT – relate feedback to learning goals and objectives. Make suggestions on what steps, in which order, are needed for the student to meet these criteria.

MECHANISMS

There are many ways that you can use technology to help you incorporate mechanisms for instructor feedback into your course.

- Blackboard Grade Center comments to individual students; Announcements to entire class; Discussion Forums: within a course-forum to entire class or to individual discussion-forums for a private conversion between you and individual student

- Elluminate Live, Skype, or Google+ Hangout-set up individual conferences or groups for synchronous meeting

- Screencast or annotated screenshots using tools like JING, or Screencast-O-Matic

- MS Word track changes or Google Comments in Google Docs

- Livescribe Pen to create annotated PDF

- Comments/Voice message feature in Adobe Acrobat

- MAC Users: annotate tools in Preview

RESOURCES

- http://iteachu.uaf.edu/develop-courses/constructing-a-course/feedback-mechanics/

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