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Why Student Feedback Matters



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The aim is to improve student performance, not just measure it, we must ensure that students know the performances expected of them, the standards against which they will be judged, and have opportunities to learn from the assessment in future assessments.

(Grant Wiggins, 2002)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdp4sPviV74>



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What is Feedback?

- ◆ Feedback is information about how we have performed in relation to a stated goal.
- ◆ Feedback tells us what did or did not happen:

Effective feedback provides:

- ◆ **information** about what happened or was done
- ◆ an **evaluation** of how well or otherwise the action or task was performed
- ◆ **guidance** as to how performance can be improved.

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Principles of effective feedback

- ◆ Is specific and avoids vague comments.
- ◆ Is varied in its method of application.
- ◆ Shows a valuing of student work.
- ◆ Uses marks or grades only some of the time.
- ◆ Provides time for students to act upon advice.
- ◆ Enables students to know how they will benefit

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When does feedback occur?

Feedback can occur at any point in the learning cycle:

- ◆ while students are working on a task
- ◆ while students are presenting a task
- ◆ at the end of the task.

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Features of effective feedback

- ◆ Acknowledges success and provides an indication in several areas where improvement could occur.
- ◆ Is accessible – must be able to be read and understood.
- ◆ Students are made aware of the purposes of feedback.

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Effective feedback

- ◆ Teacher comments should focus on improvement in future tasks.
- ◆ ‘Comments like “Use paragraphs!” are useless – if I knew how to use them, I would have done so.’
- ◆ Effective comments are clear, succinct and related to the specific learning intention.
- ◆ Consciously focus on highlighting successes.

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Effective feedback

- ◆ There is no one **appropriate** way of providing feedback to students. The nature of the task and the context of the work should determine the form in which the feedback occurs.
- ◆ Moderate and focused praise is essential in building student self-confidence.
- ◆ When giving verbal feedback, use of a positive tone of voice, with regular indications that the teacher is listening, helps students to feel at ease and to actively participate in the dialogue.
- ◆ Avoid damaging self-esteem .

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And last but not least!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGsOBdsIGb0>