

Introduction

Effective teaching and feedback will improve learning outcomes by helping students recognise what quality work looks like.

By understanding these characteristics, students can assess their own contributions and identify specific steps to improve their work.

This guide uses an interactive Q&A and evidence-based research, to introduce practical ideas and advice that can be implemented quickly.

1 How do you encourage contact between students and yourself?

To encourage contact between students and yourself, start by being approachable and provide opportunities for dialogue and discussions.

At the beginning of the module, introduce yourself and share a little about your background and experience. Ask students what they hope to gain from the class and any concerns they may have. This helps students feel more comfortable and creates opportunities for dialogue in the classroom.

Consider using online channels, such as forums, to create a sense of community and allow students to participate in discussions outside of class time. Invite students to support each other by answering questions raised by others and provide clarification to steer the conversation as needed.

Lastly, be mindful of your own time and wellbeing. Set boundaries by clearly communicating your availability and response times. This helps manage expectations and ensures that you can provide quality support without feeling overwhelmed.

2 How do you develop collaboration and co-operation among students

Developing collaboration and cooperation fosters a sense of community, enhances peer learning, and encourages students to support one another.

One practical step is to incorporate peer feedback sessions into your classes. This helps students learn from each other and reduces the pressure on you to provide all the feedback.

For example, the student reads the work of their peer and provides one constructive comment. This can benefit learning by exposing students to alternative perspectives and generating reciprocal feedback.

Another approach is to design group projects that encourage students to provide feedback to each other using structured criteria. Students can learn how to make objective comments, which in turn enhances their own skills in self-assessment.

3 How do you encourage active learning?

Active learning encourages students to become involved in the feedback process, making them more likely to retain information and develop critical thinking skills.

One practical approach is to use online quizzes with multiple-choice questions covering subjects from an up-coming class. Gathering answers in advance will highlight the students existing knowledge and identify areas which need more focus during the lesson.

Another strategy is using Self-Evaluation to help students reflect on their own work. For example, students can be asked to evaluate their own assignments against a set of criteria before submission. This not only enhances their understanding of the subject matter but also develops their ability to critically assess their work.

One-Minute Papers are also a valuable tool. This technique involves students writing short answers to questions posed at the end of a lecture.

For example, you might ask students to write down the concept they found most interesting and one question they still have. It provides immediate feedback on what students have learned and insights into areas that may need further clarification.

4 How do students access prompt feedback?

Prompt feedback helps students understand their progress, identify areas for improvement, and stay motivated.

One practical approach is to use assignment cover sheets. Encourage students to rephrase the essay question in their own words before starting assignments. This helps identify misunderstandings early, allowing tutors to offer prompt corrections and ensuring everyone is on the right track from the beginning.

Another effective strategy is to implement frequent low-stakes assessments. These can be small tasks that carry minimal marks but provide continuous feedback, helping students stay on track as they progress through the module.

For instance, a 300-word critical interpretation instead of a 3000-word essay can develop higher-level cognitive skills while keeping the workload manageable for both students and tutors.

With these practical steps, tutors can ensure that feedback is timely, constructive, and actionable.

5 How do you emphasise time on task?

Emphasizing how much time students should spend on tasks helps them plan and manage their workload.

By distributing learning tasks across the module timeline, tutors can challenge students consistently, encouraging them to engage frequently with the material.

Establishing regular study habits is vital, especially for first-year students who are adjusting to university life. Reminding students of the need for independent study, both in and out of class, helps them understand how they can improve their grades.

Making learning tasks compulsory or awarding marks for completed work improves student engagement and allows tutors to monitor progress effectively.

Additionally, breaking down larger assignments into smaller, manageable activities with short deadlines and quick feedback helps students progressively build confidence and skills.

6 How do you communicate high expectations?

Providing clear requirements through well-constructed criteria sheets and marking rubrics can help communicate your expectations.

Engaging with these before, during, and after the assessment process help students understand how to develop their work to meet these requirements.

Using exemplars, such as model answers and well written assignments, allows students to understand what high-quality work looks like and sets a benchmark for their aims.

When providing feedback, include specific points that students can act upon.

For example, instead of just noting that a student needs to be more critical, you might say, "You need to be more critical because..." or you could suggest ... "You have critically assessed some points but not all. Think about..."

This approach helps students understand the specific steps they need to take to enhance their work.

7 How do you respect diverse talents and ways of working?

Respecting diverse talents and ways of working is essential for effective feedback. This approach is particularly beneficial for students from non-traditional backgrounds and disadvantaged groups.

By providing opportunities for choice in assessment tasks, tutors can help students work to their strengths and preferences. For instance, allowing students to work in a format that best suits their individual needs by choosing topics for assessment or project work can be highly effective.

Encouraging the use of portfolios can also be beneficial. Portfolios enable students to reflect on their achievements and select work that showcases their abilities. This helps students develop a comprehensive picture of their skills and see their personal and academic growth.

8 How do I encourage students to follow my feedback?

Placing effective feedback at the centre of your teaching practice helps students understand how acting on feedback can lead to improved academic performance and personal growth.

Creating opportunities for dialogue around feedback is highly effective. This can include classroom discussions about feedback students have been given, helping them to reflect on the advice and understand it.

For instance, asking students to comment on the feedback they found useful and how they might use it in future work can significantly enhance their learning experience.

Using classroom time to involve students in identifying action points for future assignments can be effective. After reading the comments, students can formulate action points to take forward, which involves them more in the feedback process and helps them internalize the advice.

Finally, tutors can use insights gained from feedback to improve future approaches to activities, assignments, and classroom delivery... Integrating feedback into the teaching process ensures that it becomes a valuable tool for student development.

9 How do I know what success look like?

The success of your feedback can be seen through new student behaviours, changes in classroom dynamics, and specific observations.

The classroom environment may become more interactive and supportive, with increasingly frequent dialogue between students and tutors.

Students might show greater motivation and confidence, as they feel more involved in their learning process and see the benefits of their efforts.

Academics should look out for students showing independence, such as asking for feedback or aiming higher in their learning.

These practices might lead to a more cohesive learning community, where students support each other and work collaboratively towards common goals.

Summary

This guide focused on quick and simple ideas to enhance teaching and feedback through practical steps.

These activities not only benefit students but also improve the overall quality of your teaching.

By incorporating insights from student feedback into your teaching process, you can enhance future module deliveries and gain cumulative benefits from the feedback gathered throughout the class.