



Tips for Providing Helpful Course Feedback

Student feedback is a crucial component for instructors to improve the course. If an instructor asks for your feedback during the semester or at the end of the course it is because they value your opinion. Your feedback can influence mid-semester course changes as well as how the course is designed and taught in the future.

Some things to keep in mind when providing feedback to your instructor on the course:

- Give concrete examples related to the course. For example, if you dislike or like the process of discussions in the course, be specific about what you either like or dislike. Don't just say "I don't like the discussions." A more specific comment is "I don't like the discussions because the same people are always called on and I don't feel like my opinion on the readings matter." Both positive and negative feedback is most helpful when very specific.
- Focus on your learning experience and the course content. It is not helpful to comment upon an instructor's appearance or to include personal insults in your feedback.

Some examples of constructive feedback:

Less helpful: Vague critique or praise	More helpful: Specific suggestions that could improve your learning, or explanations of why the course helped you learn
"He just lectures."	"He just lectures... "..., and a short break would help me pay attention for the full lecture." "..., but we need more time for student questions during lectures." "..., and I would learn more if I got more hands-on practice."
"The readings were redundant."	"The readings were redundant..." "...I didn't understand why we read so many different articles on the same topic." "...Could you offer more guidance on what we're supposed to look for in the readings?"
"Discussions were awesome!"	"Discussions were awesome!..." "...I loved how you created an environment where students were willing to share perspectives and disagree." "...It was really helpful that you kept notes on the board during our discussions."
"There was too much busy work"	"There was too much busy work" "...there are a lot of assignments where we don't get any feedback, so they don't help me understand the material"
"He grades unfairly"	"He grades unfairly" "...the instructions on paper 2 were difficult to understand, and you changed the assignment requirements so much that I was confused, and it was unclear what you really wanted"