

Introducing TEDM: Improving Feedback Practices

Willie McGuire

University of Glasgow

william.mcguire@glasgow.ac.uk

This Time It's Personal!

- Think about the last piece of feedback you had
- Was it helpful? If so, in what way? If not, then why was it unhelpful?
- Anyone been positively (or even negatively) angry with their feedback?

Feedback Problems

Detail, generalisations and timing. (Gibbs 2006. Hounsell, 1987; Ivanic, Clark, and Rimmershaw, 2000).

Unable to understand feedback. (Hounsell, 1987; Ivanic, Clark, and Rimmershaw, 2000).

Wrong foci. (Grammar/spelling) (Nicol 2010).

Focus on negatives. (Hounsell, 1987; Ivanic, Clark, and Rimmershaw, 2000).

Disconnected from assessment criteria. (Hounsell, 1987; Ivanic, Clark, and Rimmershaw, 2000).

Unable to convert feedback into action. Nicol (2010), (Lizzio and Wilson, 2008; Orsmond, Merry, and Reiling, 2005; Poulos and Mahony, 2008).

Lack of understanding of assessment criteria. Sadler (2010).

Cognitive load and tone. Sadler (2010; 537) points to Higgins, Hartley, and Skelton, (2001, 2002); Carless, (2006); and Rae and Cochrane, (2008).

Feedback Solutions

- Hybridise formative and summative assessments
- Establish a feedback protocol
- Focus on developing self-regulation, the internalisation of feedback and supporting student activation of the feedback
- Use both peer and tutor assessment
- Get in the mood! Relationship between assessor and assessee
- Motivation
- 'Describe' rather than 'tell'. Descriptive *versus* instructional models
- Model the skills you want students to adopt
- Identify 'must needs' issues

On The Macro Level

- 1 Identify up to three positive trends in the formative draft of the work.
- 2 Identify up to three areas to be developed and model how a student would do that. Show them how to do it.
- 3 Identify up to three major issues-if they exist.

On The Micro Level

TEDM

- **Tell (T):** the student that some aspect of their piece is either effective or ineffective.
- **Explain (E):** why what they have done is effective or ineffective.
- **Describe (D):** how the student could do better next time, or in another draft (even if the feedback is good feedback).
- **Model (M):** that feedback by showing (modelling) the student how to do what you have described above.

Methodology

- 8 focus groups recorded
- 4 staff-student researcher teams
- Transcriptions created
- Braun and Clarke's Thematic Analysis combining inductive (Bacon) and deductive (Aristotle) modes. See Current Research 2 for a breakdown

Current Research 1

- MEd (Professional Practice)
- Peer review
- Tutor review
- Hybridised assessment forms: formative and summative
- Comments given at the formative stage

Current Research 2

- A variation on Braun and Clarke's (2006) six stage model of thematic analysis was used as a paradigm
- Step 1-familiarisation with the data.
- Steps 2 and 3-initial coding and generation of themes-discussed as a team to establish our shared understanding of the application of the model.
- Step 4-One team member was then asked to analyse one transcript to apply initial coding and the initial themes.
- Steps 5 and 6-conducted as a group, using the pattern established in steps 2 and 3.
- Step 6-transcripts divided among the team who produced their analyses, which were then critiqued by the whole team in order to generate Step 6.
- Step 6-The final draft was completed by the team member who carried out the initial coding.

Let's Try The CPD Resource

[https://sway.office.com/
n1bOrAOCCja3Cpkg](https://sway.office.com/n1bOrAOCCja3Cpkg)

References

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2006) Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3 (2). pp. 77-101. ISSN 1478-0887 Available from: <http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/11735>

Carless (2006). Developing Synergies Between Formative and Summative Assessment. Paper presented at the British Educational Research Association Annual Conference, University of Warwick, 6-9 September 2006

Gibbs, G. 1999. Using assessment strategically to change the way students learn. In *Assessment matter in higher education: Choosing and using diversity approaches*, ed. S. Brown and A. Glasner. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Higgins, R., P. Hartley, and A. Skelton. 2001. Getting the message across: The problem of communicating assessment feedback. *Teaching in Higher Education* 6, no. 2: 269-74.

Higgins, R., P. Hartley, and A. Skelton. 2002. The conscientious consumer: Reconsidering the role of assessment feedback in student learning. *Studies in Higher Education* 27, no. 1: 53-64.

Hounsell, D. 1987. Essay writing and the quality of feedback. In *Student learning: Research in education and cognitive psychology*, ed. J. Richardson, M.W. Eysenck, and D.W. Piper, 109-19. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Ivanic, R., R. Clark, and R. Rimmershaw. 2000. What am I supposed to make of this? The messages conveyed to students by tutors' written comments. In *Student writing in higher education: New contexts*, ed. M. Lea and B. Stierer, 28-39. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Lizzio, A., and K. Wilson. 2008. Feedback on assessment: Students' perceptions of quality and effectiveness. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education* 33: 263-75. DOI: 10.1080/02602930701292548

Nicol, D. 2010. From monologue to dialogue: improving written feedback processes in mass higher education. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education* 35, no. 5. 501-517. DOI: 10.1080/02602931003786559.

Orsmond, P., S. Merry, and K. Reiling. 2005. Biology students' utilization of tutors' formative feedback: A qualitative interview study. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education* 30: 369-86. DOI: 10.1080/02602930500099177

Poulos, A., and M.J. Mahony. 2008. Effectiveness of feedback: The Students' perspective. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education* 33: 143-54. DOI: 10.1080/02602930601127869

Rae, A.M., and D.K. Cochrane. 2008. Listening to students: How to make written assessment useful. *Active learning in Higher Education* 9: 217-30. DOI: 10.1177/1469787408095847