The Practical Professor

Quick and easy tips, questions, and suggestions for improving teaching and learning.

Lesson Analysis – Closing a Learning Loop
Student Feedback Technique Series #6

As part of a diagnostic teaching approach, we need information regarding how students receive a lesson. After all, good diagnosticians check to see if the plan prescribed had the desired effect!

The most important component of this week's Student Feedback Technique (SFT) helps students close a learning loop by having them identify and briefly explain key concepts in a lesson. Doing this in their own words involves a higher order thinking skill.

Part 2 of this "lesson analysis" asks students to identify questions they have on the subject, also a key thinking skill that has the additional benefit of possibly providing entry to a subsequent lesson. Use the final part of the "lesson analysis" at your option. Because we think collaborative learning is important, we include a self-analysis for students to identify how they helped another student. This also gets them thinking about learning *as* learning.

This technique is most valuable when done regularly. The more students do this, the better they get at the thinking skills involved, and the more information they provide.

Process:
   Use the Lesson Analysis form below and ask students to:

1. Fill out this SFT individually in 5 – 6 minutes
2. Be as complete as possible in their responses – emphasize that there are no "right answers" – that you are merely gathering information so that you can tailor learning activities and your teaching directly to their needs
3. Reiterate that this is not a quiz
4. Tell students you will report back to them quickly and show how their input has affected your teaching

In the next *The Practical Professor:* Tip Series #6

Lesson Analysis

It is often useful to do a bit of summary thinking when we finish a lesson. Please be as complete as you can be, while also being brief. **This is not a quiz or test** – this *helps you* be clear about what you know, and *helps me* determine what we need to cover in a future lesson. Thanks for your help.

What do you consider to be the **main topic** we covered in this lesson? Please explain it in your own words.

What are the **two** most important things **you learned** in this lesson? Write a sentence about why each was important to you.

Do you have any questions about anything in this lesson?

What did you do to help other students learn and/or participate in this lesson?

Name:

Also available!

Teaching

A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty   *Back Issues*

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No. 6 – Components of a Well-Planned Class
No. 7 – Observe Your Teaching Tendencies
No. 8 – Ways to Keep Your Students Learning
No. 9 – Ways to Get Feedback on Teaching from Students
No. 10 – Using Short Writing to Assess Learning
No. 11 – Getting More (and Better) Student Questions
No. 12 – Mixing Things up Mid-Semester
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