

The Practical Professor

No. 9

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

Getting Significant Feedback on Teaching

Student Feedback Technique Series #3

This week's Student Feedback Technique (SFT) enables you to get significant information on how your students are receiving your teaching. Getting feedback during the term enables us to better target our teaching to their specific needs, a crucial component of "diagnostic-based teaching."

The key to using any SFT is making it quick and easy for students to complete and for us to analyze and respond to.

Process: Ask students to fill out this SFT individually in 5 – 6 minutes. Next, it is often useful to get both individual responses and group responses, so form small groups to develop group responses. Finally, ask students to submit both their individual and group responses. Group responses are often more useful than individual ones simply because a group of students has agreed on the same comment, but you may also find some individual comments to be very significant.

As soon as possible, review the responses with the class, describing what you are doing with the information. Pick one or two areas to concentrate on – either something you wish to change or something you wish to do more of (or less of). Incidentally, should you find this useful, use it again in three weeks to see if students notice any changes or have any additional comments. The following semester, do this 1/3 of the way through and again 2/3 of the way through.

In the next *The Practical Professor*: Teaching Tip Series #3

Feedback on Teaching

I need your help to identify how my teaching affects you. This will provide me valuable information as I prepare classes for the rest of the course.

We will do this in three parts. First, please fill out your personal answers to the questions below as honestly as you can (do not put your name on this – this is just feedback to me, not a quiz!). Second, I will put you together with several other students to see what you all agree upon. After you hand in both your group responses and your individual ones, I will review them and use the information to better target my teaching to this class.

1. What is one important thing that I (the instructor) do that helps you learn?

2. What is one thing that I do that you believe does not help you learn?

Thank you for your input!

Also available!

Teaching

A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty

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Contact your campus Teaching and Learning Consultant (TLC) or e-mail us at:

JFinckel@asnuntuck.edu or WSearle@asnuntuck.edu

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