



Providing Effective Feedback

Students interested in improving their skills or increasing their knowledge and understanding value regular feedback on their work and progress. Here are ten tips for providing timely and effective feedback:

1. Use rubrics to itemize the critical elements of assignments; rubrics provides clear guidance for students to focus and improve efforts.
2. Specifically identify strengths, weaknesses, and voids in work.
3. Explain how weaknesses or voids can be corrected, and how your feedback can and should be applied in their future efforts.
4. When building upon previous activities and experiences, be sure to return graded coursework in time for students to apply feedback.
5. Avoid empty praise and unsubstantiated rewards; there is no evidence that such practices improve student performance or increase learning.
6. Refer back to grading rubrics, project descriptions, or the syllabus with specifics to reinforce your grading and scoring practices.
7. Explain how coursework relates to overall course goals.
8. Encourage students to work hard, improve, and ultimately succeed.
9. Use the built-in automated feedback option in the WebCT Quiz tool.
10. Make scores and grades available to students via the course web site.

--Jared Stein, Director of Development

WebCT Tip of the Day: Automatic Quiz Feedback

We've talked about how WebCT tools such as Mail, Chat, and Discussions can facilitate feedback, but the WebCT Quiz tool allows you to provide automated feedback on individual questions and specific answer choices for all your quizzes and exams.

To create feedback for answer choices and questions in an existing quiz:

1. Open a quiz or question database category.
2. Click the title of a question to edit it.
3. Beneath each answer choice you'll find a feedback box wherein you can type specific responses, e.g. "This answer is wrong because of X" (**Figure 1**).
4. At the bottom of each question you can provide general feedback, such as, "The answer is found on page 12..."

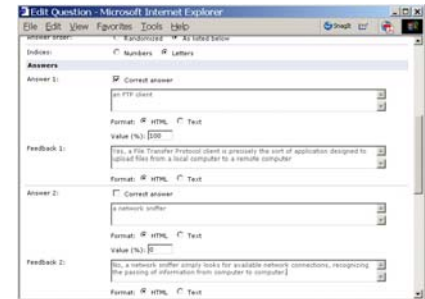


Figure 1 Enter feedback for questions.

For more information on the WebCT Quiz tool, call Jared at x8929.

This Month's Workshops and Trainings

Title	Date	Time	Place
Grades with WebCT	5/9	5-6pm	CS615B
Intro to WebCT	5/10	4-5pm	CS615B
Editing & Managing Content	5/17	3-4pm	CS615B
WebCT Communication Tools	5/17	4-5pm	CS615B
Grades with WebCT	5/24	3-4pm	CS615B
WebCT Assignment Tools	5/24	4-5pm	CS615B
Basic Image Editing: Scanning	5/31	3-4pm	CS615B
Basic Image Editing: Photoshop	5/31	4-5pm	CS615B

To sign up for these workshops and more, visit our website:
www.uvsc.edu/disted/tetc/workshops

Drop By the TETC! Now in 227 LC

We offer an open-access curriculum development technology lab for all UVSC faculty. Our normal hours are 10am-4pm, M-F. You can drop in and use the equipment, or make an appointment and receive some one-on-one help. We've got slide, print, and document scanners, audio/video equipment, a DVD←→VHS converter, and more!

Did You Know?

By consistently assessing a wide range of skills you can help provide students with a clear picture of their academic strengths and weaknesses overall.

On Topic...

Baumeister, R.F., Campbel, J. D., Krueger, J. I., Vohs, K. D. (2004) Exploding the self-esteem myth. *Scientific American*, December 20, 2004, 18-23.
MacDonald, J. Twining, P. (2002). Assessing activity-based learning for a networked course. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 33:5, 603-618.



This newsletter was published for Distance Education by the Technology Enhanced Teaching Center at Utah Valley State College.

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