

Lilly Conference
Austin, TX
January 11, 2019



AHEAD OF THE CURVE

CARE-ing Feedforward

Formative Commentary for Learners

Jeffrey L Walter, PhD: Associate Professor, General Education – Dallas Campus



DESCRIPTION & OUTCOMES

**A Multi-Modal (onground/online) Mnemonic for
Formative Commentary on Student Work**

CARE-ing Feedforward

PRESENTATION COMPONENTS/OUTCOMES

1. Explication

**Understand
foundations &
underpinnings**

2. Exploration

**Investigate
(participant-defined)
applications**

3. Evaluation

**Critique applications
& consider research
design options**

- ❖ Maryellen Weimar (2012) and Baker & Zuvela (2013): **improvement rather than defense of grades**
- ❖ Hirsch (2015) & Marshall Goldsmith (2012) URTEXT: **future possibilities not past evaluations for behavioral changes and improvements**

- ❖ Gill (2014), Khalil-Rehman (2012) and Zolyan (2015)
Language & purposes create reality
- ❖ Fonseca et al. (2015) –
 - **FOCUS, VALENCE** (emotional attractiveness/averseness)
 - **TONE (respect for, recognition of, the person)**

From the Literature, 3 IDEALS HARVESTED

- ✓ NONDEFENSIVE Commentary
- ✓ For Future-Directed ACTIONS
- ✓ With a CARE-ingly Affective Tone

The Result of the Harvest - **MY PLEDGE**

To be most effective as a teaching-learner, I will affectively engage with student-learners through **CARE**fully designed language in response to their work.



CARE-ing feedforward

Connect



The teaching-learner should compose the first element of feedforward comments in ways that connect with the student-learner on a personal level. This can be done by recalling and referencing specific information about the student-learner as a person. The focus of this first step is to let the learner know that s/he has personal significance, and that s/he is seen as an individual agent who is more than the “student” label by which s/he is commonly identified.

Address

The teaching-learner should compose direct and detailed feedforward comments to demonstrate specific knowledge of the main ideas, points or issues in the work output. The commentary should be specific in relation to the areas that need improvement, but also in relation to the areas that show excellence and success.



Redirect

The teaching-learner should compose the next part of feedforward comments to highlight specific recommendations and suggestions for future action on the part of the student-learner. In all cases, whether the work was excellent or lacking, the teaching-learner should share ideas for future goals and targets of improvement, asking the student-learner to make adjustments in future work that will help ensure continuing progress/success.



Encourage



At the end of the feedforward comments, the teaching-learner should focus on conveying motivational encouragement. Thank the student-learner for attentive and responsive work in advance, and assure the student-learner that improvement is likely; that the teaching-learner “believes in” the student-learner. In short, the final element of feedforward commentary should reassure and inspire the learner with confidence that s/he can “take the next steps.”

HOW would you CARE?

Connect



Address



Redirect



Encourage



Connect

Hi there, Julie. You nearly scored a half-court three pointer with this assignment – just like Dirk! (Did you see the Mavs game this week?)



Address



You did a good job with this assignment, covering 8/10 elements (more than required), but there are places where your writing is unclear/confusing (see paragraph 3, sentence 4).

Redirect

For our next textbook chapter review, carefully proofread and revise before you submit, and consider outlining 9/9 key points highlighted in the instructions (why not attain a perfect grade?).





Encourage

Congratulations in advance for your next submission and the improvements I know you will make!

HANDOUT: JULIE EXAMPLE

Hi there, Julie. You nearly scored a half-court three pointer with this assignment – just like Dirk! (Did you see the Mavs game this week?) 🤓

You did a good job with this assignment, covering 8/10 elements (more than required), but there are places where your writing is unclear/confusing (see paragraph 3, sentence 4).

For our next textbook chapter review, carefully proofread and revise before you submit, and consider outlining 9/9 key points highlighted in the instructions (why not attain a perfect grade?).

Congratulations in advance for your next submission and the improvements I know you will make!



The Workshop Participation **SCENARIO**

Kevin's Personal Background Notes

- Computer science major
- Loves soccer – plays weekly
- Has an older sister who completed this course



Kevin

Evaluation Notes for assignment just completed

- Scored 85% on lab report (1 of 2 in course)
- Introduction and Discussion = strong elements
- Methods/Materials & Statistical Results = weak elements

Next Assignment (lab report 2) goals

- Improve weak areas & maintain strong areas

The Workshop Participation APPLICATION

PERSONAL

- Computer Science
- Soccer
- Sister

1st LAB REPORT (LR)

- Strong Intro/Disc
- Weak Methods/Stats

UPCOMING 2nd LR

- Tactics to maintain strength and improve weaknesses

Compose Kevin's
CARE-ing Feedforward:

CONNECT

ADDRESS

REDIRECT

ENCOURAGE



CARE-ied AWAY!



- ? Responses, Ideas, Concerns**
- ? Application/Pragmatic Issues**
- ? Research Design Possibilities**

References

- Baker, D. J., & Zuvela, D. (2013). Feedforward strategies in the first-year experience of online and distributed learning environments. *Assessment & Evaluation In Higher Education*, 38(6), 687-697. doi:10.1080/02602938.2012.691153
- Fonseca, J., Carvalho, C., Conboy, J., Valente, M. O., Gama, A. P., Salema, M. H., & Fiúza, E. (2015). Changing teachers' feedback practices: A workshop challenge. *Australian Journal Of Teacher Education*, 40(8), 57-81.
- Gill, J. H. (2014). Language and reality: Whitehead, Wittgenstein, and the analytic. *Process Studies*, 43(1), 59-67.
- Goldsmith, M. (2012). *Feedforward*. Highland Park, IL: RTC Publishing.
- Hirsch, J. (2015, June 4). *Share "feedforward," not feedback* [Edutopia Professional Development RSS]. Retrieved from <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/share-feedforward-not-feedback-joe-hirsch>
- Khalil-ur-Rehman. (2012). Mind, language & culture. *Dialogue*, 7(1), 1-14.
- Nordrum, L., Evans, K., & Gustafsson, M. (2013). Comparing student learning experiences of in-text commentary and rubric-articulated feedback: Strategies for Formative assessment. *Assessment & Evaluation In Higher Education*, 38(8), 919-940.
- Weimer, M. (2012, March 5). *Getting students to act on our feedback*. Retrieved from http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-professor-blog/getting-students-to-act-on-our-feedback/?utm_source=cheetah&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2012.03.05%20-%20Faculty%20Focus%20Update
- Zhang, F., Zhang, X., Luo, M., & Geng, H. (2016). The effects of feedback on memory strategies of younger and older adults. *Plos ONE*, 11(12), 1-18. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0168896
- Zhenbo, C., Jingying, G., Leilei, Z., Gang, X., & Hongjing, M. (2018). Strategies using recent feedback lead to matching or maximising behaviours. *Judgment & Decision Making*, 13(2), 212-216.
- Zolyan, S. (2015). Language and political reality: George Orwell reconsidered. *Sign Systems Studies*, 43(1), 131-149. doi:10.12697/SSS.2015.43.1.06

Contact

Jeffrey L Walter, PhD

Associate Professor, General Education

West Coast University – Dallas

8435 N. Stemmons Freeway

Dallas, TX 75247

214-453-4551

jWalter@westcoastuniversity.edu