



Using feedback to improve

By actively using the feedback that is provided to you (both before and after your work is undertaken) you can improve your overall understanding of a course, and your academic performance.

How might you receive feedback from your lecturer or tutor?

- Verbal and written comments or answers to questions delivered both individually or to the whole group during lectures, tutorials, practicals, placements, presentations, seminars, workshops etc.
- Online messages via individual and group emails, or messages on discussion forums.
- Answers or comments to online or in-class quizzes.
- Verbal or written comments on assignments to you individually, or your group.

Where else might you find useful feedback?

- Course Outline or learnonline site for feedback from past attempts at the assignments (e.g. what to avoid, useful tips etc.).
- Assignment information – assessment criteria and feedback forms.
- Self-directed learning tasks, for example some text books have end of chapter quizzes.

What can you expect from feedback?

Feedback is a mixture of positive comments and advice about how you can improve your work. It may contain constructive criticism and sometimes these comments may disappoint at first. However, it is important to remember that feedback is designed to help your learning and improve your skills overall.

How can you use feedback to improve?

- Identify the areas you need to improve in. If you are not sure, clarify with your tutor.
- If you have received feedback for more than one assignment, identify common areas you need to work on and prioritise these.
- Be pro-active and make a plan for improvement. If you need strategies on how to improve in the areas you have identified, make an appointment with a Language and Learning Adviser on your campus.
- Put your plan into action, and revisit it after your next assignment to see if you have made improvements. If necessary revise your plan or seek further advice on strategies.

How to plan for improvement using feedback

Step 1

Read the feedback on your assignment and identify three areas of your academic writing that need improving and record them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Step 2

From the above list:

- circle any area where you do not understand what the problem is, and
- underline areas where you understand the problem but do not know how to change.

Talk to others. What strategies could you use to find out what you need to know?

Step 3

Visit the [L3 website](#) (*opens in a new window*) to find resources on various topics to help you improve your academic skills.

Step 4

Using what you have learnt from steps 2 and 3, write a plan of action to make your improvements.

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Step 5

Check your next assignment feedback. Have you made improvements? If not, revise your action plan. If yes, well done! Now it's time to identify what you want to work on next.

Useful links *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

[Business](#)

[Education, Arts and
Social Sciences](#)

[Health Sciences](#)

[IT, Engineering and the
Environment](#)