Using Grading Strategies to Promote Student Learning

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Learning Objectives

• Identify ways to enhance student learning through grading practices and self assessment
• Determine best practice in assessment and grading

Backwards Learning Approach

• Focuses students' thinking about knowledge and skills needed to meet learning objectives and perform culminating tasks
• Encourages self assessment and ownership of learning
• Students clarify the task, identify goals, and develop a plan of action

Reflection Prompts

• Assessment Task: At the end of this instruction, what will I be asked to do or create?
• Knowing Goals: What will I need to know and understand?
• Doing Goals: What will I need to be able to do?
• Action Plan: What is my plan for completing this task successfully? What steps will I take?

Student Learning and Success

• How does grading contribute to student learning and success?

Your Grading Experiences

• Two Grading Experiences
  – Done Well
  – Done Poorly
• Describe
  – Characteristics
  – Consequences
Promote Learning Through Effective Evaluation

• Involve students in identifying expectations related to learning goals (Backwards learning)
• Encourage student reflection of their work
• Student complete evaluation of their work
• Utilize peer feedback to enhance quality of work

Strategies for Effective Grading

• Prepare in Advance
  – Clear learning outcomes
  – Formative / summative assessments
  – Clear grading criteria (scoring, rubrics)
  – Define consequences
  – Determine realistic timeline for grading
• Communicate Your Expectations
  – Syllabus, assignments, handouts, rubrics
  – Learning outcomes and desired performance
  – Logistics (due dates, format, etc.)
  – Ask and answer questions!

Promote Learning Through Effective Grading

• Prepare in Advance
• Communicate Your Expectations
• Apply Grading Criteria Consistently
• Give Constructive Feedback
• Consider How to Improve

Strategies for Effective Grading

• Apply Grading Criteria Consistently
  – Grade students’ work not students
  – Avoid shifting your criteria / expectations
  – Use tools/rubrics to grade work reliably
• Give Timely / Effective Feedback
  – Global v. Specific Comments
  – Identify how to improve
  – Be supportive and respectful
  – Be willing to explain

Strategies for Effective Grading

• Consider How to Improve
  – Did students perform to my expectations?
  – What concepts / skills were lacking?
  – How can I help them succeed?
  – Current students
    • Reviewing topics
  – Future students
    • Clarity of expectations

Grading Resources

Grading Schemes / Strategies
• http://www.park.edu/center-for-excellence-in-teaching-and-learning/resources/cetl-quick-tips/grading-strategies
• https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/grades-sub-pages/grading-student-work/
• http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/ten-tips-efficient-effective-grading/

Grading & Self Confidence
• http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/educational-assessment/frequent-low-stakes-grading-assessment-for-communication-confidence

Managing Conflict
• https://teachingcommons.stanford.edu/resources/teaching/evaluating-students/assessing-student-learning/strategies-fair-and-peaceful
Grading Resources

Involving Students in Evaluation
• http://www.assessmentliteracy.org/blog/three-ways-engage-students-assessment-process/

Backwards Learning Approach
• http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/vol8/817-silver.aspx