

Providing Feedback to Students

Seven Keys to Effective Feedback	2
Give Feedback to the Class in Announcements	3
<i>Announcement 1</i>	3
<i>Announcement 2</i>	3
Allow Students to Give Feedback to Each Other through Forums	4

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Seven Keys to Effective Feedback

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) publishes a magazine titled *Educational Leadership*. Grant Wiggins wrote a piece for *Educational Leadership* titled [Seven Keys to Effective Feedback](#). Review the article for valuable information on writing feedback that provides learners what they need to succeed in your course.

The seven keys included in the article are instructors should make feedback that is

- tangible and transparent
- actionable
- user friendly
- timely
- ongoing
- consistent

Using these steps may take additional time to create, but it generates another opportunity for your students to learn.

Read the article for a more in-depth look at each key feedback item.

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Give Feedback to the Class in Announcements

Was there a test question that most students missed on the exam? Is there a measurement in your lab that most students miscalculated? Did most of your students leave off an important step in an assignment? If so, giving feedback to the class through an announcement is a beneficial way to communicate the remedy. Rather than typing the feedback out continuously to many students, an announcement covers the tasks in one submission. See some examples below.

Announcement Example 1

“Class,

On question two of last week's exam, many students found it difficult to locate the setting to remove protections to delete an organizational unit in Active Directory. Video 4.2.3 discusses how to manage objects in Active Directory. Lab 4.2.6 covered this topic and provided a simulation where you can test deleting an OU. Consider revisiting the video and lab if you struggled with this question.

Deleting OUs is an important course concept. Spend some extra time practicing the process. You may see the question again on a future test.”

Announcement Example 2

“Class,

Excellent work on this week's discussion forum. You did a great job examining the chapter's topics and providing thoughtful replies to your fellow students. You can learn a lot from reading your classmates thoughts and ideas. Continue to use the class forums as an additional tool to learn.

Great job and I am looking forward to this week's discussion.”

The examples above show a positive, reinforcing message and a message of correction asking students to review important material. There are many other ways to use announcements to give feedback. Think about how you could use it your own course.

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Allow Students to Give Feedback to Each Other Through Forums

Having students give suggestions to each other is an effective way to generate feedback to students. Discussion forums are one way to create this kind of feedback for students. Create a forum that asks students to share their perspectives on a course topic and post a resource that could help someone learn more about the topic. As part of the assignment, students must reply to a post and offer a helpful recommendation to improve or add to the resource and a strength of the resource.

There are many ways to incorporate students giving feedback to each other. Think about ways you can do this in your own course.