

APSU Writing Center
Understanding Writing Feedback

Understanding Feedback on Your Academic Writing

- Seeking feedback is essential for improving your writing as a student and for professional growth.
- Remember: Feedback is not a judgement of your writing ability.
- Constructive Criticism is a tool to help you develop as a critical thinker and writer.

Why Ask for Feedback?

- Asking for feedback means you're no longer working in isolation. Feedback:
 - Clarifies uncertainties and refines arguments
 - Strengthens overall writing quality
 - Promotes continuous improvement
 - Is encouraged by the APSU Writing Center to foster growth

When to Ask for Feedback?

- Feedback is valuable at any stage of your writing process, from brainstorming to final drafts.

Consider asking for it when you question:

- Do I understand what the assignment is asking?
- How do I turn my ideas into a paper?
- Do my ideas make sense?
- Are my transitions smooth?
- Is my writing clear and effective?
- Does my work meet assignment requirements?
- Can I better structure this information?

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Types of Writing Feedback

Types of Feedback

Your Own Feedback

- One of the most powerful tools is self-assessment.
- Step away from your paper for a few hours or days and return with a fresh perspective.
- This break allows you to spot potential organization issues, transition problems, or grammatical errors that you might have missed.

Feedback from Outside Perspectives

- Friends or family members, even those not familiar with your subject, can offer valuable insights.
- Talking through your ideas out loud can strengthen understanding.
- They can help you assess the clarity of your ideas and provide feedback on flow and structure.

Writing Center Peer Tutor Feedback

- Writing tutors are trained to help you at any stage of your writing process.
- Tutors can help with brainstorming, organizing, or editing.
- They bring experience from multiple assignments and disciplines.

Professor Feedback

- Professors provide the most targeted feedback because they created the assignment.
- They clarify expectations, formatting, and discipline-specific conventions.

Interpreting Instructor Feedback

1. Rewrite in Your Own Words

- Rephrase the feedback so you fully understand what it's asking.
- Putting it in your own words makes revision easier.

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Interpreting Feedback

2. Answer Instructor Questions

- Respond to any questions your professor asks.
- Doing so helps you identify areas for improvement you might otherwise miss.

3. Make a Checklist

- Turn feedback into actionable tasks.
- Prioritize higher-order concerns (organization, thesis, developing ideas) before lower-order concerns (grammar, punctuation, spelling).
 - **Example:** If your instructor notes your thesis is unclear, revise it before fixing minor punctuation issues.

4. Refer to the Rubric or Assignment Sheet

- Assignment Sheets highlight what instructors value most.
 - **Example:** If "Analysis" is worth 20 points and "Grammar" is worth 5, focus more on improving your analysis.

5. Look for Patterns

- Tutors and instructors usually focus on a few examples rather than marking every issue.
- Use feedback to identify recurring problems and apply solutions to other parts of your paper.

6. Check Topic Sentences

- Ensure each topic sentence clearly describes the paragraph's content.
- Remove or revise points that do not fit the topic sentence.
- Move points, revise sentences, or connect ideas better when needed.



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References

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