Tip Sheet Learning from Feedback

Have you completed assignments and not received the mark you were hoping for? Do you want to achieve better results in upcoming assessments? No one enjoys being told they can do better, and sometimes it really hurts, but receiving critical feedback can actually be tremendously beneficial. Feedback is any comment or mark which gives an indication of how your work lines up with what is expected. Feedback can let you know what you’re doing well and help you identify where you can make improvements. Choosing to act on challenging feedback may be the key to unlocking your potential and receiving better marks in your future studies.

This tip sheet provides some steps for learning from feedback, and encourages you to perform a feedback audit on what you do when receiving feedback on your work and what you should be doing instead.

What are some proven steps for learning from feedback?

1. **Look** for feedback – Feedback can come from all different sources, all of which can be helpful for improving your future assessments. These include written feedback, verbal feedback, peer feedback, group feedback and even feedback in advance (when tutors/lecturers let you know where past students typically lost marks).

2. **Learn** from feedback – Make sure you understand the feedback you receive. Work through it systematically, discuss it with classmates, tutors or others and seek clarification if you don’t understand a comment. Identify the positive things you should keep doing and the areas in which you can improve.

3. **Use** your feedback – It’s YOUR feedback, so make it work for you.
   - Keep doing anything which has received positive comments.
   - Choose to turn negative comments into constructive counsel.
   - If it’s overwhelming, choose to focus on 3 comments that will make the most difference for next time.
   - Develop strategies to make the necessary improvements. You might need to seek help or access relevant online resources to do this.

Remember! You cannot change the grade you’ve got, but you can get value from marks you’ve lost by learning from feedback and developing your skills and knowledge in that area.
Am I working in the most effective way to learn from the feedback I receive on my work?

The table below lists just some of the many beneficial approaches to feedback you can use. Complete the questionnaire below to discover if you are making the most of your feedback.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I always do this</th>
<th>I sometimes do this</th>
<th>I never do this</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I take careful note of positive comments, and find out what I did to get them, so I can use this feedback to improve my future work</td>
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<td>2. I take careful note of the causes of critical feedback, and determine how to avoid these problems in future work</td>
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<td>3. I compare feedback I get from different lecturers to determine the general trends in the quality of my work</td>
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<td>4. I share the feedback comments I receive with fellow students, and learn more about the comments the received in their work</td>
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<td>5. I make action plans based on the feedback I have received, and keep this close to use in future work</td>
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Remember! Valuable learning can take place when you don’t get something right as long as you’re finding out how to fill the gaps and actively learning from the process.

Contact
If you have any questions about this material, please contact ECU’s Learning Advisers at learningadviser@ecu.edu.au