Effective Feedback

Course evaluations allow you to provide the professor with comments related to what you like about the course or the teaching and what could be improved.

Here are some quick tips for providing comments that will result in effective feedback for the professor and therefore have the greatest impact.

Give feedback the professor can use

Descriptive comments are more helpful to the professor than ones involving judgement.

Comments on the professor's actions and decisions are more useful than comments on personal characteristics.

Recommendations, suggestions and other specific feedback can inspire the professor to try new things or shift the focus of his or her course.

Remember that your comments are read by the professor only after the final grades are official.

Provide examples

Describe specific occurrences or specific teaching techniques used by the professor. What impact did they have on your learning experience?

What teaching techniques did you prefer?

What was your favourite topic? Why did you prefer it?

What specifically should the professor do the same way next term? What should be changed?

Think back on the course

Do you have any comments on…

- The course or the professor in general?
- The professor's teaching strategies?
- The organization or structure of the course?
- How the professor communicated with students outside the classroom?
- The clarity of explanations
- The difficulty of the course or of specific assignments?
- The relevance or timeliness of certain assignments or evaluations?
- How the professor's teaching style affected your motivation to learn the material?
- How the classroom physical or social environment shaped your learning experience?

Some examples…

Very useful	Less useful
X doesn't help learning because… I suggest doing Y instead because…	Don't do X.
X was very helpful because… and more of it would [make the course more stimulating/provide a better learning experience, etc.].	Do more X.
The X elements of the course pack hindered my learning because… These problems could be solved by doing…	I didn't like the course pack.
It was difficult to complete all the course work because it took 8 hours every week, which was difficult to balance with the work f or other courses I have this term.	The course is too much. Fewer readings!
The PowerPoint presentations were helpful for understanding the material. Moreover, I appreciated having access to them outside of the lecture since they helped me organize my notes.	I appreciated the PowerPoint presentations.

Your opinion matters