Receiving Feedback

There are many opportunities for feedback in University. It can be a great strength as a student to be able to use this feedback to improve your performance. Be receptive to feedback from a variety of sources, and take time to reflect upon it.

Five Tips To Improve Through Feedback

1) **Know what the mark means:** The class will have a summary of marking expectations in the course syllabus. There will also be specific criteria for individual projects, sometimes called a rubric. Re-reading this marking rubric while going over feedback will help you understand where the comments are based. The university has published a webpage that will help you understand the meaning of the grades you receive ([http://students.usask.ca/academics/grades.php](http://students.usask.ca/academics/grades.php)).

2) **Understand the comments:** Different professors will have different styles of feedback. Some will do a summary sheet at the end of an assignment or essay, and others will make marks throughout the assignment. Read all of these comments and thoroughly understand them so you can improve.

3) **Talk to your professor:** If there are comments you don’t understand, talk to the person who wrote them. Contact your professor or teaching assistant (TA) and arrange to meet. Make sure your professor or TA knows why you want to meet - to discuss a particular assignment. Make a list of questions you want to ask ahead of time when possible. Be open-minded and accepting of criticism, but don’t be afraid to ask for clarification. As a general principle, give yourself 24 to 48 hours before contacting your professor or TA.

4) **Talk to fellow students:** Some students may feel uncomfortable discussing marks, but it can help to compare notes. For example, if the professor wanted one part of your assignment formatted differently, often a classmate’s assignment can be used as an example.

5) **Keep negative feedback in perspective:** Almost everyone will feel somewhat disappointed with criticisms, but feedback on an assignment or essay shouldn’t be taken as a personal insult. The instructor provides feedback to help you learn and grow as a student. Remember that the comments are about the work you have done and not about who you are. Take the feedback, transform it into changes you can make in your studying, and make positive gains in your learning and future performance.

**Turn Feedback Into Improved Performance!**

Resource: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OLPL5p0fMg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OLPL5p0fMg), June 2015