

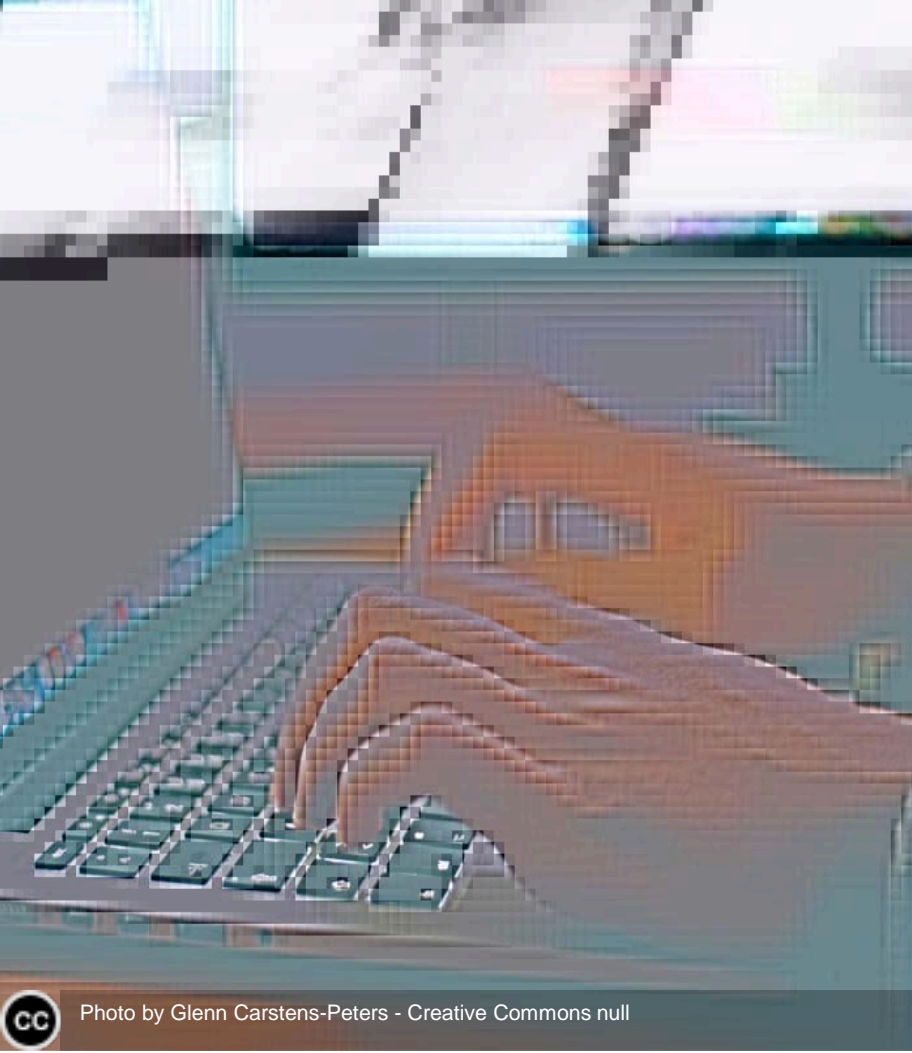
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA



WORKSHOP:
RESPONDING TO
STUDENT WORK

Alina Gharabegian

August 16, 2021



Fundamental Principles

Fundamental Principles

- Response to student work should facilitate student learning—should be a *teaching tool*
 - Comment for revision
 - Comment for justification

- Assignment *design* is central to a good product
- Assignment *purpose* should be clear to both instructor and students
- *Expectations* should be clear to instructor and transparent to students
 - Rubrics

- Assessment/evaluation *rationale* should be clear to instructor
- Evaluative comments/responses should be *reinforced by what is taught in the classroom* and vice versa

Fundamental Principles

- Writing *instruction itself* is imperative to the learning process, post-response
 - Patterns of writing issues and formalized lessons that address these
- *Conferencing* with students one-on-one is unequivocally the best learning tool for students and the most potentially inspiring and human encounter in the enterprise of responding to student work
- *Scaffolded* assignments and assignments *in stages* are fundamental for teaching individual skills, both before and after responding
- *Low-stakes* writing/assignment is a good site for:
 - the practice of being a “common reader”
 - the practice of “hearing” the student’s voice
 - the student’s freedom in writing without concern over a grade



Best Practices

Types of Comments

Global

Facilitative (asks questions)

Directive (suggests revisions)

Local

Corrective (requests changes)

Evaluative (provides value)

Marginal (dialogical)

Summative (monologic)

Best Practices

- 1. Subject work to more than one reading
- 2. Read first for comprehension of ideas, only (be a “common reader”)
- 3. Read with compassion, sensitivity, humanity
- 4. Read/discern patterns of errors or writing issues
- 5. Respond with comments on both global and local issues
- 6. Remember: responding to student work is a form of dialogue
- 7. Commit to both marginal and terminal comments

Best Practices

- 8. Use a variety of response types, privileging facilitative responses
 - (facilitative, directive, corrective, evaluative)
- 9. Wherever possible, pose questions instead of making statements
 - the response process should be constitutive of teachable moments
- 10. Familiarize students with proofreader's marks for corrective responses
- 11. For corrective responses, use minimal markings
 - (asterisk, check mark, circle, underline)
- 12. Comment most heavily on the substance of the work (with facilitative and directive responses)
 - development of thought
 - originality
 - strength of argumentation

Best Practices

- 13. Don't forget to comment on what works well and to praise the work in both marginal and terminal comments
- 14. Provide explanations in directive and corrective comments
- 15. With substantive comments, compose in complete, clear sentences
- 16. Provide feedback that is meaningful by being future-oriented: "In future assignments, you might..."
- 17. Expect revised work and read the revised work!
- 18. Respond and grade in a timely manner while lessons are fresh and relevant in a student's learning process

Best Practices

- 19. Conduct lessons around your students' actual patterns of errors—what do they need practice with? Organize a couple of brief lessons, some exercises, some homework that gets at the heart of their particular writing issues and reinforces your responses/comments on their work
- 20. Peer review can be helpful (they certainly like it!)
- 21. Share samples of model student work (but anonymously and with the student's permission)

STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE #1

You need to do more research

Every year [wordy - be precise] on one Sunday in the middle of January [which Sunday?] tens of millions of people [Comma needed] cancel all [word choice]

events, plans or work to watch the Super Bowl. This audience includes little boys and girls, old people, and housewives and men. [Be specific - what reasons?] Many reasons have been given to explain why the Super

Bowl has become so popular that commercial spots cost up to \$100,000.00. [and why] [what spots?] One explanation is

that people like to take sides and root for a team. [awkward] [another what?] Another is that some people like the

pageantry and excitement of the event. These reasons alone, however, do not explain a

happening as big as the Super Bowl. [too colloquial]

The paragraph needs to be expanded to be more interesting to a reader

STUDENT WRITING SAMPLE #2

*Begin by telling your
↓ reader what you are going to write about.*

*avoid
"one of
the"*

In the sixties it was drugs, in the seventies it was rock and roll. Now in the eighties one of the most controversial subjects is nuclear power. The United States is in great need of its own

elaborate

source of power. Because of environmentalists, coal is not an acceptable source of energy. Solar

be specific

and wind power have not yet received the technology necessary to use them.] It seems that

nuclear power is the only feasible means right now for obtaining self-sufficient power.

However, too large a percentage of the population are against nuclear power claiming it is

be precise

unsafe. With as many problems as the United States is having concerning energy, it seems a

shame that the public is so quick to "can" a very feasible means of power. Nuclear energy

should not be given up on, but rather, more nuclear plants should be built.

*Thesis statement
needed*

*Think more about your
reader*

In the sixties it was drugs, in the seventies it was rock and roll. Now in the eighties, one of the most controversial subjects is nuclear power. The United States is in great need of its own source of power. Because of environmentalists, coal is not an acceptable source of energy. Solar and wind power have not yet received the technology necessary to use them. It seems that nuclear power is the only feasible means right now for obtaining self-sufficient power. However, too large a percentage of the population are against nuclear power claiming it is unsafe. With as many problems as the United States is having concerning energy, it seems a shame that the public is so quick to "can" a very feasible means of power. Nuclear energy

caustation?
is this what happens? Sun & wind "receive" technology?
environmentalists who make coal "unacceptable"?
Why is coal an "unacceptable" source of energy?

collective, singular noun - fix your verb

So it the

(should not be given up on, but rather, more nuclear plants should be built.

Hope to read why you believe what you believe.

Nice, strong voice; clear connections (and flow of thought) among sentences — good cohesiveness! Be sure to return to your rationale as you develop your argument: why / how should your reader be persuaded of your position?



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

WORKSHOP: RESPONDING TO
STUDENT WORK

Thank you!

Alina Gharabegian

August 16, 2021