

NARRATIVE EVALUATIONS

Supplementing grades with personal feedback

Narrative evaluations go beyond the usual assigning of grades, instead allowing for additional comments to accompany multiple category assessments. Students can be required to review and/or comment on their narrative evaluation based on selected parameters. The Faculty Evaluation Scoreboard allows instructors to see the status of required evaluations and provides a link to enter or finish evaluations not yet completed.

Similar to Narrative Evaluations, Peer Reviews allow students to provide feedback to other students in the same assigned study group. The Student Evaluation Scoreboard displays evaluations required from the student and completed evaluations from faculty and peers. In both cases, links are provided to make the process simple and convenient.

Instructors can use narrative evaluations to provide feedback on a group project. The evaluation categories might include topic knowledge, originality and individual participation with grading options of poor, fair, good and excellent. Comments can be given for each category, providing additional feedback to the student. The students working on the group project can be put into a study group and provide feedback to each other. If set up as an option, students can provide feedback on the evaluations/reviews they receive. The setup steps are:

1. Define the following:
 - o narrative evaluation/peer review categories and rating scales
 - o when additional comments are required or optional
 - o when a follow-up response from the student is required or optional
2. Identify which classes will utilize narrative evaluations and/or peer reviews
3. For peer reviews, assign students to study groups
4. Establish the time period when evaluations/reviews must be submitted and when they can be viewed by students

With Narrative Evaluations, instructors are able to provide students with further insight as to why they received a particular grade as well as record why the grade was given. Students benefit from the additional input from both faculty and their peers.

