Responding Effectively to Student Writing

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Keep Evaluation in Mind When Designing Assignments

- Relate writing assignments to course objectives; sequence when possible
- Identify purpose, audience, format
- Explain grading criteria (rubrics)
- Provide a sample assignment

“Set Students up for Success”

Responding to Student Work

Read the entire paper before commenting
Comment first on ideas and organization (global vs local).
Avoid over-commenting; focus on one or two major points.
Comment when it counts – more on draft, fewer on final copy. Put minimal comments on finished products that will not be revised.
Use comments on drafts to prompt re-vision not just point out errors.

Responding to Student Work (cont’d)

Grade using a rubric
Make your comments legible; consider typing them or using the Comment function in WORD.
End notes: emphasize your interest in the ideas and begin with a positive comment.
When grading final papers, calibrate your grades

Final Tips

Have confidence in what you know makes good writing.
Prioritize the writing skills you want to emphasize.
Relate these skills to course objectives.
When it comes to grading:
“Less can be More.”

~Learning to write well is a lifelong process.