

English 2010 Grading Team Process

T. Rousculp

In this class, students will evaluate (including assigning grades) two of the four formal assignments. In the Spring 2012 semester, we experimented with this process. A student survey at the end of the semester found that 100% recommended this process for future classes. I have four reasons for using this process:

1. In my experience, Peer Response Groups, in which students give feedback to each other on drafts, don't seem to be very meaningful learning experiences for anyone. Because the teacher is the one doing the grading, no one feels very committed to giving or receiving comments or suggestions.
2. Since the teacher does all the grades, the only person who matters in reading your writing is the teacher. This can cause a problem when you and the teacher never quite see eye-to-eye with your writing. If the teacher gives your writing a lower grade than you think you deserve, there is very little you can do about it.
3. If the teacher is your sole audience, then you get used to writing for one person only. Becoming a good writer includes writing for different audiences. But, if the teacher does all the grading, then you get no experience writing for different audiences.
4. I think teachers hold too much power over students. While I cannot get rid of this power difference completely, this process may even it out a bit more.

How It Will Work

We have four assignments this semester. I will grade the first (Report) and the last (Activist Writing). "Grading Teams" of students will grade the second and third assignments: the Position Paper/Proposal and the Memoir/Profile. You will be assigned to a Grading Team. Each student will grade only one assignment.

1. For each assignment, the class will collaboratively determine the evaluative criteria for each assignment.
2. Instead of grading your paper and responding, I will provide you with feedback during individual conferences. These are not required, but highly recommended.
3. You will submit your papers to me electronically by the due date to DropBox. I will place the papers in the appropriate "DropBox folder" and will notify the Grading Teams that they are ready. (See below for Drop Box instructions.)
4. Grading Team members will individually read and evaluate a set of papers (typically 8-9) before meeting in class.
5. In class, Grading Teams will share evaluations and collaboratively determine the final assessment and grade. They will also write up recommendations for revision for the students whose papers they evaluate.
6. Grading Teams will submit their evaluations to me, which I will record and then forward to you.
7. During the following class meeting, you will have a chance to talk to members of the grading teams about their evaluations.

8. You'll be able to revise your assignment. Grading Teams will meet again at the end of the semester to grade revisions.

Process to Ensure Fairness

There will be four or five people on each grading team. This means that evaluations will need to be discussed, rather than assigned by a single person who may or may not like your writing. Teams will work with Evaluative Criteria that everyone will have prior to submitting your assignments. I will use this rubric also as I conference with you on your drafts.

If you feel your assignment has been graded unfairly or capriciously, you should make an appeal to me. I will review their evaluation of your assignment, and if I see cause for concern, I will ask the Team to explain their assessment. If their explanation is unsatisfactory, I will ask another Grading Team to evaluate your assignment.

Creating a DropBox Account

To distribute assignments, we will use Dropbox.com. If you do not have a Dropbox account, you will need to sign up for one. In the third week of class, I will invite you via your MyPage email address to join a particular folder in my Dropbox account. Then, follow the instructions below:

1. Click on the link in the mail and go to <https://www.dropbox.com/>
2. Register for DropBox with your SLCC email address. (Note, you do not need to download DropBox onto your computer. You can use the Internet version only.)
 - a. To register for an online account, go to "Log In" in the upper-right-hand corner and select "Create an Account."
 - b. If you wish to download the program, follow the instructions.
3. Once you are registered, go to the folder that I have shared with you, and read the file I have put there.