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Flexing formative feedback to achieve different outcomes

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Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session you will be able to:

- Consider the value of language in encouraging students to take increased responsibility for acting on feedback;
- Develop an awareness of how feedback practice can be flexed.

The session will include:

- Opportunities to reflect on feedback experiences;
- Engagement with recent research related to student perceptions of feedback;
- Active tasks including analysis and reframing of feedback comments.

What is feedback?

“The notion of feedback is fascinating – whilst feedback is referenced in almost all studies of learning, it sometimes seems as if it is a unidimensional notion understood by all.”

Hattie & Masters, 2012

- How do you define feedback?
- Consider your own experiences of giving and receiving feedback.
- What might your students say?

Feedback as....

Analogies and metaphors are a common tool used within the feedback discourse:

- the feedback triangle (Yang and Carless 2013),
- feedback as a loop (Mislevy 2012),
- ‘feedback as telling’ (Boud and Molloy 2012 p.14),
- feedback as a gift (Hargreaves 2005),
- feedback as a dialogue (Carless *et al.* 2011; Nicol 2010),
- feedback as talk (Ajjawi and Boud 2018),
- feedback as a consequence (Hattie and Timperley 2007),
- feedback as a Trojan horse (Kirton et al. 2007) or
- feedback as an ‘elaborate dance’ (Dennis et al. 2018, p.93).

Position within AfL paradigm

1. Clarifying and sharing learning intentions and criteria for success.
2. Engineering effective classroom discussions, questions, and learning tasks.
3. Providing feedback that moves learners forward.
4. Activating students as the owners of their own learning.
5. Activating students as instructional resources for one another.

Interactions

Feedback Can Occur Between:

- tutor to student
- student to tutor
- student to student
- tutor to tutor

Which is most valuable in schools, and why?

The feedback students give teachers can be more powerful than the feedback teachers give students (Tovani, 2012)

What teachers see as feedback

- Comments
- Clarification
- Criticism (pros & cons)
- Confirmation
- Content development
- Correction

[All of these tend to relate to how the student is doing now]

(Hattie & Masters, 2012)

Student perceptions of feedback

Feedback is much more about what students receive than teachers give.

Students contend strongly that they attend to feedback, even if they fail to act upon it (Glover & Brown, 2006).

When feedback is given to the whole class, it's received by no-one as they believe it is not about them (Hattie talk, 2012).

Tutors believed that they were providing more detailed feedback than the students themselves believed they received, and that the nature of their feedback was more useful than the students perceived it to be (Glover & Brown, 2006).

There is confusion about the purpose of feedback from both tutor and student viewpoints, as it is often linked to grades rather than to improve learning (Carless, 2006, Handley, Price & Millar, 2008).

Students may claim to understand the feedback, even when they did not, and when they did understand it, they did not know how to apply it to their future learning (Nuthall, 2007).

What sort of feedback does your teacher give you about your physics work?

L: We get, like, those question things...

W: She marks our book regularly as well.

S: She gives like a question that we have to do, or something to prove.

B: All teachers have to do it, but it's not really very good 'cos normally they are questions that you don't know the answer to.

L: if you just ask her, she tells you the answer, because that's all she can really do. But the questions are sometimes just like, why haven't you underlined this with a ruler? And it's like ...I forgot!

W: You get an odd question, every couple of months that you actually have to think about, but the rest of them, they're not that useful. The questions are more like time-wasting.

S: That's not her fault though, that's the school policy.

Task



What was your feedback about?

	Hattie & Masters (2011)	Gan (2011)	Van den Bergh, Rose & Beijaard (2013)
Level	18 secondary classes	235 peers	32 teachers in primary school
Task	59%	70%	51%
Process	25%	25%	42%
Regulation	2%	1%	2%
Self	14%	4%	5%

	Hattie & Masters (2011)	Gan (2011)	Van den Bergh, Rose & Beijaard (2013)	Brooks, Carroll, Gillies & Hattie (2019)	Bloom (2020)
Level	18 secondary classes	235 peers	32 teachers in primary school	1 Y7 class (n=28)	4 GCSE Physics teachers (45 lessons)
Task	59%	70%	51%	78%	37-84%
Process	25%	25%	42%	16%	13-40%
Self-Regulation	2%	1%	2%	6%	0-5%
Self	14%	4%	5%	*not coded	0-2%

Task repeat (with prompts!)



Observation audit 1

Statement: Provides information about the particular level:

Task/Product – correctness of response, clarification, criticism, confirmation

Process/Strategy – recognises what strategy or process has been employed

Self-regulation – recognises effort, persistence, resilience, reflection

Praise/self – undifferentiated, personal, non-task-related statements

Prompt: a cue for further development:

Task/Product – clarifies next step, what else to include, how to develop content

Process/Strategy – provides strategies/suggestions/cues for error detection, next steps, information search, procedural hints

Self-regulation – reflective probes that guide further self-evaluation

Praise/self – non-specific prompts, unrelated to learning intentions

Observation audit 2

Key:

Feedback level		Feedback type		Target	
Task/product	T	Statement	s	Girl	G
Process/strategy	P	Prompt	p	Boy	B
Self-regulation	R			Class	C
Praise/self	S				
Instruction	I			Team	T
Other	O				

2.00	TpG	TSspG	PpsG	PlpG
4.00	PpG	PpG	TpG	PpG
6.00	TPspG	SsG	TsC	
8.00	TPspB	TpB	TpB	TpsB
10.00	PpGB.	TspG	SsG*	
12.00	TpB →	TpB →	SpB →	SpB ^{save}
14.00	SpB	TsC	PpC ^{class}	TPspC
16.00	TPpC	TpG	TspB	
18.00	PpG	PpG	TPsG	TsB
20.00	TspB	TsC	TsC	
22.00	TPsC	PpB	TpB	TSpB
24.00	TpC	PsC	PpC	SsC
26.00	PpG	TsC	TPpB	

17.00	PpB ¹					'when you do calculations, assuming no E. loss...
18.00	SpB ¹ → PpB ² . SpG ³ . TpG → TpG ⁴ . √ PpB → PpB →					'ok? ² explains Δ process. ³ Ladies, we OK? ⁴ query colour paper
19.00	→ TpB → PpB → TpB ¹ → SsB ² . PpB ³ → SsB. * PpB → TsB → PpB. * PpB → PpB → TpB →					'Just do it like that ² OK. ³ You can round, alright
20.00	→ TsB → PpB → TsB →					(describing to Jack)
21.00	TpB → TsB → TpB ¹ → TsB.					'what's in storage heaters...
22.00	SpB → PpB → SsB → PpB → TpB → TsB → SpB - TpB. TsB ¹					'It would still be SO.
23.00	PpG ¹ → TsG ² . TpG → PpG ³ → TpG → TpG. TpB ⁴					'Mmm prompt. ² Yes that's right. ³ You need to include that it's copper. ⁴ Be there in a second Ben
24.00	PpG → PpG. PpG → TpG. SsG ¹ → SsG → TsG → TpG → SsB ² . TsB → SsB ³ . TsB ⁴					'You wally. ² Well done plus. ³ That's right well done ⁴ that's right.
25.00	TsB → PpB → SpB. PpB → TsB ¹ → PpB → TsB. TsB → PpB → PpB →					'That's wrong.
26.00	→ TsB. TsB ¹ . TpB ² . SpB ³ → SsB → PpB → TsB → TpB → TsB →					'That's alright that's fine. ² Stick sheet in. ³ Ben why are you on a low chair.
27.00	→ PpB → SsB → Rsb ¹ → SsB. PpG → PpG → PpG → PpG ²					'You're doing some work. ² See if you can work out these.
28.00	TpB ¹ . Rpb ² → SpB ³ . TpB - TsB - PpB. TpB ³ → SsB. TsG					'Gue. ² What's wrong with you lot ³ Don't forget your units well done
29.00	→ TsG → PpG → TsG - TsG. PpB ² (task?). SpG. TsB → PpB					'You've done it right. ² How are we doing?
30.00	→ TsB. TsB ¹ . TsG → PpG ² → PpG → TsG → TpG.					'I'd like to see your working kit. ² You changed this when you worked it out.
31.00	TsG - TsG. Rpb → PpB ¹ . PpG → PpG → Rpg ²					'were you stuck on number 7. Have a little discussion. ² Does that help solve the problem.
32.00	PpB → PpB. PpGB → TsG → TsG →					
33.00	→ TpG → TsG → TpG. PpG ¹ →					'I think about a storage heater.
34.00	→ TsG → TpG → PpG ¹ → TsG → PpG → TsG.					'what do you think.
35.00	TsB → TpB → TsB. PpB ¹ → TpB → PpB → TsB → PpB. SsG ² TpG					'Jack how did you get on (task?) ² OK. good, have you finished?
36.00	TsG. TpG → TpG → TsG. TsB SsB ¹ . PpG.					'Yes, well done Jack & Ben.
37.00	SsB ¹ . PpB → TpB ² → TpB → PpB → TsB → TpB →					'OK. ² what's your change in temp.
38.00	→ TsB → TsB → PpB. TsG [*]					* talks to Hester who came into room.

Analysing verbal feedback

Is that the furthest forward he goes?

PpG

prompting a girl to process a response

Well what do you think?

PpG

prompting the girl to think further

If that's what you think then use that number

PpG

prompting the girl to consider the number

[girls answers in negative] **well then, we'll talk about it**

TsG

stating that they could discuss the answer

Don't be frightened of making a mistake,

RpG

prompting a self-regulation response

this is part of the learning process

RsG

prompting a self-regulation response

[Teacher 2, lesson 7, 29.50-30.05m]

Main findings

- teachers have dialogic characteristics that can be mapped across lessons and form a 'teacher profile'
- there are a large number of oral interactions made by teachers in lessons, and feedback interactions form a high proportion of this, although *pupils do not recognise it as feedback*
- feedback styles as part of oral interactions vary between teachers and is a key part of their dialogic repertoire
- teachers of some experience find it hard to flex their 'default' style, despite CPD and coaching; *this has implications for ITE*
- Intervention teachers did manage to increase their P and R feedback amounts
- pupils who received a higher amount of both *prompt* and *process* feedback developed more positive self-belief systems (gains in self-concept and self-efficacy, reduced subject anxiety)
- relationship is key, and verbal feedback builds relationships; the current notion of disparaging praise as detrimental to learning needs to be nuanced.

Feedback is complicated...

- Feedback is complex;
- Feedback has affective dimensions;
- Feedback is inherently relational;
- You cannot remove the self from the feedback;
- Feedback can have positive/negative consequences in terms of identity, motivation, self-worth, self-regulation;
- Feedback is often focused on the product;
- How the feedback is intended does not always translate to how it is received.

So, how can we modify our feedback to make it less problematic?

Three Fundamental Principles of Effective Classroom Feedback

1. Be more work for the recipient than the donor.

Feedback should cause thinking. Students should be expected to have time to do something with it.

2. Be focused

‘less’ can be more: feedback should be accurate *and* helpful

3. Relate to shared learning goals

Have clear learning intentions and success criteria that are referenced through a lesson & in feedback given at the appropriate time

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