Collection of tips and tricks

Information feedback tips

There are a number of quick and easy ways to allow students to receive feedback in order to see how they are going. Try some of these:

- Ask small teams to present three most important things from the class today, and provide quick feedback;
- Create a quick kahoot quiz (there are plenty of other free tools but this one is really quick and easy);
- Ask students to share and compare their classwork with others. For example, students can check each other's solution to a mathematical problem, or groups can pair up and share and discuss their responses to a discussion question;
- In the case of creative work, or work on whiteboards, ask other groups/classmembers to add comments or choose their favourite one by adding a tick or sticker;
- Chat to students as you move around the room, ask about their work, assessment readiness, points of stress.

Formal written feedback tips

- Take a strengths-based approach and not a deficit approach when providing feedback. That is, make clear what the student has done well, or adequately, using positive and encouraging language.
- Focus on up to three key areas where they could improve.
- Avoid making condescending remarks like "if you turned up for class, you would have achieved a better mark". This is not supportive of our students and we should not make assumptions about why they have not been attending. Many of our students have significant personal and academic barriers that can make coming to class difficult.
- If you are marking an assessment and it is clear that the student is struggling academically, include in your feedback that there are support services that they can access – Study Lounge, Study Smart Online or MESH.
- If assessment is awarded a fail mark. provide them with an opportunity to speak one-on- one with you as their teacher.
- Always let students know the areas they need to focus on to improve for their next assessment ("feed-forward"), even if that is focusing on essential academic skills such as effective test preparation, proofreading assignments, and consulting reference guides for correct citations.

Seeking feedback from students

- Ask students to stick a post-it-note with an emoji of how they are feeling about the class or with a question they have, and stick these on a wall. Then group the questions by themes and answer the most common ones
- Ask students to write a one minute paper - a very short, in-class writing activity. For example, see here
- Focus on up to three key areas where they could improve.
- Watch body language - perhaps, if students are reaching for phones or having to 'Google' answers to simple questions, there may be an issue. Smiling, attentive students generally suggest positive attitudes, engagement and understanding
- Talk to students and ask directly how they are going. Sometimes simpily walking around during activities and chatting to students can allow you to provide verbal feedback to students and to see how they are managing