Guide to Effective Feedback

When giving feedback to a writer, it is important that feedback is focused, specific, actionable, and positive. Here's a guide for what that means and looks like:

Focused: It can be tempting to comment on every issue, but this can be distracting to the writer. In the case of a class assignment, feedback should focus on the main goals of the writing assignment, which are the criteria listed on the Self/Peer Feedback Form and what will be assessed on the rubric.

Specific: Feedback should explicitly name specific areas of writing for celebration or improvement. For example:

- Try Again: Good job in this paragraph.
- Improved: Good job using added context when integrating your quotation. It helps me understand the quote.

Actionable: Feedback should provide a clear direction for the writer to move forward.

- Try Again: Your thesis statement needs improvement.
- Improved: Consider adding more detail to your thesis statement to give a clearer overview of your main ideas.

Positive: Receiving feedback on writing can be nerve-wracking. Adopt a supportive, collaborative tone that focuses on the writing, not the writer.

- Try Again: You are boring at the beginning of your introduction and don't engage the reader.
- Improved: You might try writing a more engaging hook in your introduction. Maybe start with an anecdote or a thought-provoking question.

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Below is an example of focused, specific, actionable, and positive feedback on the Peer Feedback Form:

	Strengths What is my peer doing well already?	**Criteria** Expectations for the writing task:	**Areas for Growth** How could my peer make their writing even stronger? How could their writing improve?
Introduction	Your introduction ends with a clear, debatable claim that is a great roadmap for your essay. Nice work!	My peer begins their introduction with an engaging hook. My peer presents a debatable claim.	Try starting with a more engaging hook. I think it would be interesting to start with a surprising fact about your topic!
Transitions	You include really strong transitions in your first body paragraph. I could clearly follow your ideas.	My peer uses transitions to guide the reader between sections.	Your second paragraph could be strengthened with additional transitional words. For example, you might use the word "however" at the start of your third sentence to show contrast.

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