

To: CPP Faculty

From: Victoria Bhavsar

Subject: Thoughts on final grades; uploading grades to Canvas gradebook

Date: Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022 4:15 PM

Dear faculty,

Here's an old but useful thought for making our way through the gargantuan task of giving final grades: ***Don't spend much time giving feedback.***

What?! What heresy is this?! Don't give feedback?! When feedback on work is one of the most important things we can do for students??!

The end of the semester is a special case. The final paper, the final project, the final exam -- it's over. Feedback is only useful if there's time to use it, and right now? There's no more time to revise. Extensive comments will not help most students to learn more, and it won't help anyone get a better grade. So don't spend time on it. Use checks on a rubric rather than time-consuming narrative to justify the grade.

If you have promised final feedback to students or you have a situation in which feedback *will* help them, then of course give it. You might reframe it, though: Commentary might point out strengths to build on, rather than discuss weaknesses to overcome.

Take care,

Victoria

PS: Uploading grades to Canvas's gradebook, rather than manually entering them one by one, is easy. It's helpful when you want to transfer grades to Canvas from an external site or when you grade in a spreadsheet offline. Here's a short [video tutorial](#). For more Canvas help during finals week, [Studio 6](#) is open by phone from 8am -- 5pm M-F. We're available Wednesday and Thursday for drop-ins (Bldg 1-205C), or make an appointment if you would like in-person help at a different time.

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Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning Winter Institute is FULL! Register for the wait list.

We are at capacity, but please register for the wait-list. CAFE's [Winter Institute: Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning 2.0](#), will be held **in person** January 10-12 and 17-18, 2023. Hear speakers including CPP's own Dr. José Aguilar-Hernández, Dr. Michelle DeJohnette, Dr. Cecilia Santiago-González, Dr. Anthony Orlando & Dr. Gerd Welke, and Dr. Sandy Kewanhaptewa-Dixon -- plus very special guest speaker Dr. Luke

Wood. In addition, work with each other and on your own. See [Winter Institute: Anti-Racist Teaching & Learning 2.0](#) for all the details.

Research, Scholarship, & Career Support:

Feedback on SPICE and RSCA grant proposals: *"Everybody's Mentor,"* Lisa Kessler, CAFE faculty associate and retired interim Dean of Agriculture, will provide individual, confidential feedback on proposals. Email [Lisa](#) directly to set up an appointment.

From Friends of CAFE:

- **From CSU San Bernardino:** ["ISSUES-X," a unique NSF-funded opportunity](#) for STEM faculty across the CSU system to share current practices and collaboratively investigate additional evidence-based teaching practices in STEM. Applications are still being accepted. Compensation is generous: \$6500 upon successful completion. For more information and to apply, see the [application form](#).
- **From the Office of Academic Innovation:** [Faculty & Staff Winter Institute on Digital Badging](#). In person **Jan. 18-20, 2023**. Learn about [digital badging](#) to support students' career and professional readiness. [Register and learn more](#) about the Winter Institute. **The registration deadline is December 19, 2022**. Please contact the Office of Academic Innovation, ai@cpp.edu, for questions.

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Get help from CAFE M-F 8am-5pm: canvas@cpp.edu | [CAFE's Studio 6](#) at 909-869-3099