UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Tips on Providing Instructors with Constructive Feedback

Why is this feedback important?

- Student Perceptions of Instruction (SPIs) are used to help instructors make necessary changes and improvements to their courses. Additionally, depending on the college, SPI results are also used for faculty promotion and tenure. The feedback you provide to faculty will allow them to continue to improve their instruction within course(s).

How to provide constructive feedback:

- 1. Acknowledge strengths/positive aspects of the course that you liked or found helpful
- 2. Include suggestions for change (how could your experience have been made better?)
- 3. Be Respectful: provide helpful feedback that is not intended to attack an instructor.
- 4. **Be Encouraging**: provide feedback that will motivate the instructor to make necessary changes
- 5. **Be Specific**: provide specific examples of what you liked or did not like about the structure of the course.

What constitutes ineffective feedback?

- 1. Lack of suggestions on improvement
- 2. Mean or harsh comments meant to upset or hurt the instructor
- 3. Focusing on only negative aspects of a course

References

- Ovando, M. N. (1994). Constructive feedback: a key to successful teaching and learning. *International Journal of Educational Management*, 8(6), 19–22. https://doi.org/10.1108/09513549410069185
- Svinicki, M.D. (2001). Encouraging your students to give feedback. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 87, 17-24.

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