Provide Prompt and Instructive Feedback

UDL CHECKPOINT 8.4: Increase mastery-oriented feedback
— Ensuring that detailed, constructive, and instructive feedback is provided in a timely manner can help learners improve their understanding of the concept and better succeed in the course.

What is it?

Mastery-oriented feedback on assessments allows for more individualized commentary on learners' submitted work with a specific focus on acknowledging the learners' effort. Rather than simply commenting on a fixed notion of compliance in following the instructions of an assignment or project, feedback should be prompt, personal, and constructive for each learner with a goal of inspiring the learner to remain dedicated to working toward mastery of the specific concept(s).

Why do it?

Receiving generalized feedback that focuses on a learner's intelligence on a specific assessment can create barriers, especially since everyone learns at their own pace. Rather than commenting on educational aspects outside of a learner's control (fully grasping concepts, etc.), providing feedback on what can be controlled (effort, dedication, exploration, and creativity) can help learners remain more engaged in the material and the course. Additionally, by providing prompt feedback, learners can apply the constructive aspects and challenges to their next activity.

How can I apply it?

Here are some ways that you can improve the feedback given to learners.

- **Provide prompt feedback on assessments and activities.** In order for learners to grow from and utilize the provided feedback, they must receive it in a timely fashion (before they begin work on future assessments and activities). In this sense, scaffolding assignments can be beneficial.
- **Focus on mastery-oriented feedback.** Rather than commenting on the specific skill and quality of the performance represented in the activity, provide feedback that is personalized, informative, and focused on commending effort.
- **Use multiple methods of feedback.** Utilize rubrics and make sure to provide feedback in written comments on the specific activity, in the comment section of Canvas, and in person (if applicable) to ensure that learners are fully aware of the feedback.
- **Utilize self-assessments.** Having learners reflect on the provided feedback and how they will incorporate those aspects on future assessments and activities can help learners become more intentional with their assignments and learning.

Summary

Feedback is necessary for learners to recognize the areas in which they are succeeding and in which they need to improve. By providing feedback that is timely, informative, and individualized, instructors can instill long-term habits that will help learners become successful in the course and remain dedicated over their entire academic journey.