

10 STEPS: HOW TO READ, Understand, and Apply Instructor Feedback

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01.

Go in with an open mind; don't let the grade discourage you.

Review the assignment instructions and rubric.

02.



03.

Read through both in-text feedback and endnote.

Take your time going through each comment; try and understand the depth of the feedback.

04.



05.

Understand key terms.

Research answers to questions (i.e. grammatical tips) and review class notes.

06.



07.

Talk to your Instructor and be your own advocate.

Revision, revision, revision! Apply feedback to entire paper, not just one spot.

08.



09.

Address and recognize both "higher" and "lower" order concerns.

Don't be hard on yourself...writing is a process! Learn from it!

10.



Dr. Madeline Gottlieb is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Humanities. At Farmingdale, she teaches a wide range of writing (including EGL 101 & EGL 102) and literature courses. Before joining the faculty at FSC, she taught similar writing and English courses at SUNY Binghamton University, the University of Scranton, and the University of South Florida. One of her favorite subjects to teach in her writing classes is the art of thesis writing and revision, as these are key components to the writing process. Although she has taught writing courses at many different institutions, her experience working at FSC stands out among the rest because of the determination and fortitude that make FSC students shine!

How to Read, Understand, and Apply Instructor Feedback

1. Go in with an open mind; don't let the grade discourage you.

If you are disappointed about your grade, take time to let the disappointment fade and then begin reading through the comments. Read the feedback willing to hear how to improve.

2. Review the assignment instructions and rubric.

Make sure you fully understand the assignment first. This includes reviewing the instructions, assignment expectations, and rubric.

3. Read through both in-text feedback and endnote.

In-text feedback are comments throughout the paper identifying specific places where a problem may be. The endnote is a summary. Make sure to read the in-text feedback first.

4. Take time going through each comment; try and understand depth of the feedback.

Take notes while reading feedback to identify trends, ideas that come to mind, and questions you may have.

5. Understand key terms.

Some keywords may include thesis, summary vs analysis, explain further, and proofread.

6. Research answers to questions (i.e. grammatical tips) and review class notes

Look through textbooks, notes, and Google to find answers to questions you may have.

7. Talk to your professor and be your own advocate.

When you can't find answers, reach out to your instructor to meet (via office hours or virtually) to discuss the feedback. Be prepared, ask questions, and be open-minded.

8. Revision, revision, revision! Apply feedback to entire paper, not just one spot.

Consider how the feedback can be applied to the paper collectively, not just where a comment is.

9. Address and recognize both "higher" and "lower" order concerns.

"Higher order concerns" -- larger, more analytical feedback (analyzing ideas, thesis writing, etc.). "Lower order concerns" -- areas that can be quickly fixed (grammar and formatting errors).

10. Don't be hard on yourself...writing is a process! Learn from it!

It is expected to make mistakes. There is no perfect paper. Papers are written to learn how to effectively communicate ideas. Embrace the challenge and learn from it.