Using Research-Driven Tools to Provide Feedback to Students

http://tinyurl.com/2014passnote
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The difference between
How can we find where they are?
How can we help them navigate?
Examples of tools for finding them:

- Course Signals
- Blackboard Retention Center
- Starfish retention solutions
Research about the benefits of feedback but... few resources to assist in practical application.
Specific Steps


Keep it Positive!


Early & Often


Research about the benefits of feedback.

But...

...few resources to assist in practical application.
A tool to assist in guiding them: PassNote
PassNote
We've got messages down to a science.

Launch App

Less is More.
Keep messages short and to the point.

Instructors should strive to write short messages. The most effective messages average 40 words for green messages, 52 words for yellow messages, and 62 words for red messages.

Maximum Word Count

- 40 words
- 52 words
- 62 words

Birds of a Feather...
Take Action.
Provide specific steps for improvement.

Explicit feedback that includes direct recommended actions (e.g., be sure to compare your exams with the key on the website) is far more effective and useful for students than general statements (e.g., you need to spend more time on the assignments).

Birds of a Feather...
Tell students you’re in this together.

Highly effective messages use the words “we” and “you,” while highly ineffective messages refer to the instructor as “I” and never use the word “we.” In short, the you/we language leaves students feeling capable and empowered, while the instructor-centered language (I) leaves students feeling as though their final grade in the course is beyond their control.

Don’t be a Threat.
Use constructive advice to encourage change.

When students perceive feedback as threatening (e.g., you will fail this course) without information about how to improve their situation (e.g., you will fail this course unless you start turning in assignments), it’s highly ineffective.
Don't be a Threat.

Use constructive advice to encourage change.

When students perceive feedback as threatening (e.g., you will fail this course) without information about how to improve their situation (e.g., you will fail this course unless you start turning in assignments on time), it is wholly ineffective.

References


Resources

View Press Release


Dear Student,

To get started, choose a performance level and topic.

http://www.purdue.edu/passnote/
Dear Student,

Attending class each day on time can improve your chances of success. Students who successfully complete this class complete all homework and attend all class sessions.

Attending class each day on time can improve your chances of success.

Our department has excellent resources such as [insert name] that are designed to help students be successful.

Using our department's [insert name of help center] can aid in helping you learn all you can in this course.

Using Purdue's Academic Success Center on campus can aid in helping you learn all you can in this course.

If you need help from me, please see me in my office, [office location]. I am in [office hours] to [office hours] on [days].

http://www.purdue.edu/passnote/
PassNote can...

- model best practices in student feedback.
- make it easier to give regular feedback.
- inspire variety in messaging.

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