

How do I reflect on my teaching?

Topic focus

- ideas for evaluating your teaching

Topic outcomes

- you will be able to develop strategies to assist you reflect on and improve your teaching

'I was enthusiastic and passionate and really put a lot into this semester. Why are my SETU results not improving?'

Take a moment to reflect on this issue.

What challenges does this pose for *your* teaching?

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Possible solutions

1. You need to collect and analyse data on your teaching - make use of SETU qualitative feedback.
2. Have a colleague peer review one of your lectures or tutorials.
3. Ask your students for informal feedback half way through semester.
4. Devise and use a 'checklist' of the characteristics of effective teachers.
5. Record your thinking about teaching in a reflective journal and occasionally review it to look for changes in thinking over time.
6. Plan an action learning strategy that allows you to plan, act, evaluate and change.

More help

Here are some resources from which you may seek some advice. They are all annotated so as to assist you in making judgements about what might be useful advice for your particular teaching context. By exploring some or all of these resources, you may well be able to generate strategies to suit your particular circumstances.

1. <http://www.ntlf.com/html/lib/suppmat/83brook.htm> - an excerpt from *Discussion as a Way of Teaching: Tools and Techniques for Democratic Classrooms* (Brookfield & Preskill), which looks at teachers who talk too much and teachers who talk too little.
2. <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/cte/sourcebook/teachers.pdf> - a checklist of characteristics of effective teachers, from the University of Texas.
3. <http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/teaching/toolbox/pedagogy.html> - offers a list of characteristics of effective university teachers and a brief explanation of the action learning approach to reflection.
4. <http://www.aare.edu.au/06pap/pit06290.pdf> - reports on the results of an investigation at an Australian university into what students expect from their teachers.

5. <http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/7princip.htm> - the “seven principles of good practice”, from the Honolulu Community College.
6. <http://www.oic.id.ucsb.edu/Resources/Teaching/FOI.html> - contains some good ideas for obtaining feedback on your teaching.
7. <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/ocsd/firstwords/fw4con.html> - contains some helpful advice on getting feedback from students and peers.
8. <http://teachingperspectives.com/> - you may be interested in completing this online teaching perspectives inventory.
9. http://www.cpd.mq.edu.au/induction/tl_teach.htm - Macquarie University’s definition of being an effective teacher.

Alert !

Reflecting on your own teaching can be daunting. Aim to reflect both on what you believe you are doing well as well as those things which you feel could be improved. A cycle of plan, act, review and adapt can be effective.