

CELT Teaching Tip for October 3, 2019

Midterms: A valuable time for formative assessment

The midpoint of the semester is an important opportunity for your students to examine their progress in a course. As an instructor, you can help students become aware of their standing through the midterm grade submission. Midterm grades are due on Friday, October 18 by 2:15 p.m., and are submitted electronically via Canvas or AccessPlus. Read about grading policies on the ISU Catalog Grading website (<http://bit.ly/2zM9NTB>). Learn how-to calculate midterms from the Calculate Grades for Submission in Canvas web guide (<http://bit.ly/2zM9QPh>).

Using midterms as an opportunity for purposeful assessment paired with constructive feedback can help learners identify and address their achievement gaps for learning. CELT has prepared information about low- and high-stakes quizzes in Canvas to provide a way for you to deliver valuable feedback, and assess learning via the Low and High-Stakes Quizzes in Canvas web guide (<http://bit.ly/2zNxjzE>).

This time in the semester is also a wonderful opportunity to informally collect student feedback on the day-to-day operations of your course. The Midterm Assessment Technique (also known as the Plus/Delta) is a tool utilized during the fourth through the eighth week of the semester. The advantage of this tool is that students are asked to focus on what is working to advance their learning, and what could be improved by the teacher and by the student. It helps students to reflect about their responsibility to your course, what they should continue doing to learn (PLUS), and what they need to change for the course to improve for them (DELTA) (Helminski & Koberna, 1995). The plus delta can be completed on paper, online using Canvas, TopHat, or Qualtrics, asking these four open-ended questions:

Plus

- What is helping me to learn in this class?
- What changes are needed in this course to improve learning?

Delta

- What am I doing to improve my learning in the course?
- What do I need to do to improve my learning in this course?

Once the students complete the plus delta, you collect the information and summarize it to report the themes in each category back to your class in the next session. The feedback loop creates the opportunity to discuss the shared responsibility for teaching and learning in your course. You may further specify what modifications will (or will not) be implemented as a result of their feedback. To learn more, visit CELT's Using a PLUS/DELTA Assessment Technique webpage (<http://bit.ly/isu-plusdelta>).

According to Dr. Kelly Reddy-Best, an assistant professor in the College of Human Sciences:

I have a class of 300 students resulting in lots of different types of people, and when I summarize it back to them it helps me show them why there are different types of activities in the course: readings, quizzes, group work. Some of them say they love the group work, but hate the quizzes, while the other say the opposite. The plus-delta summary helps show them why different methods are used in the course to cater to different learning styles!

With a joy for teaching,

Sara Marcketti, Director
Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

2020-21 Miller Faculty Fellowship proposals due on Dec. 9th

The Miller Faculty Fellowship program annually provides recipients with opportunities to enhance their scholarly work in undergraduate academic programs and develop innovative approaches to enhance student learning. Recipients have up to 12 months to meet their project goals. The deadline for Miller Faculty Fellowship proposals for the 2020-21 academic year is Monday, Dec. 9. Program and application details are online (<http://bit.ly/2AxshpV>). Questions may be directed to CELT, celt-miller@iastate.edu.

CELT Presenter Grant Program due Dec. 15th

Faculty and staff who received a CELT funded scholarship of a teaching and learning (SoTL) grant are eligible for the CELT Presenter Grant. The CELT Presenter Grant provides eligible faculty and staff with the opportunity to present their SoTL research findings at a teaching and learning higher education conference. For travel that will be completed between Jan. 1 and June 30, apply by Dec. 15. Learn more from the [CELT Presenter Grant Program webpage](#).

Workshop: Applying the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric (APPQMR)

Quality Matters, a non-profit course assurance organization, provides instructors with tools and processes to design online and blended courses in which all critical components work together to create intentional student-centered learning experiences resulting in progress and achievement. QM uses a research-based rubric and a rigorous peer review process for course improvement and offers on-going professional development opportunities around quality assurance in online and blended learning.

Register for an Upcoming Workshop: Applying the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric (APPQMR)

To help you to begin CELT offers the Workshop: Applying the Quality Matters (QM) Rubric (APPQMR). Register via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>) or email celt@iastate.edu to attend one of the following program offerings:

- Oct. 10 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 4 (9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Questions? Contact Lesya Hassall at lesya@iastate.edu or call 515-294-5357.

CELT Collaborator Spotlight: Karla Embleton

Karla Embleton, Ph.D., instructional designer for the College of Human Sciences Online and Distance Learning programs, has been helping faculty at ISU for 21 years. She offers the following Canvas tip to instructors:

“To consider only a subset of graded activities for Midterm Grade submission, create a temporary group in Assignments called ‘Midterm Letter Grade’. Turn on weighted grading and make this group worth 100% of total grade. Move all activities to be counted to this group. Use the ISU AdminTools End-of-course checklist tool to ensure there are no blank cells or ungraded submissions in these activities, then submit the grades. Return the Assignment page and weighted grading rules to their original format.”

Karla encourages people to become involved with the Canvas Peer to Peer group if they are interested in keeping abreast of Canvas updates and ISU tools for Canvas. The user group is a community of ISU instructors and support staff who meet biweekly to discuss advanced Canvas uses, investigate related tools and technology, and collaborate on a list of shared resources. Email celt@iastate.edu to join.

Professional Development Opportunities

Register for lunch and learn with creator of #WhyIStayed hashtag

Beverly Gooden's, victims' rights advocate, public lecture, "Why I Stayed," begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Memorial Union Sun Room. Gooden will lead a lunch & learn Oct. 16 (10 a.m.-1 p.m., MU Campanile Room) for faculty, staff, administrators & community agency leaders. It will focus on supporting student survivors of violence. Limited to 60 people; [register online](#).

Learn about deaf culture and language

Dina Toulan, lecturer in world languages and cultures, will present "American Sign Language: Deaf Culture and Language," in a series of brown bag lunches beginning Oct. 4 (11 a.m.-noon, MU Gallery). Employees and community members will learn about deaf culture, including instruction in some sign language basics. Additional sessions on Oct. 11, 18 and 25 each will have unique content.

Learning Online: Canvas and Beyond

Preparing for midterms

Midterm exams and grade submission are right around the corner. You may find the following resources to be useful:

- Best practices for preparation and delivery of online exams (<http://bit.ly/2nYwcJE>).
- Canvas News & Updates: Reports of gradebook issues, including students not seeing some grades and feedback. (<http://bit.ly/isu-canvas-updates>)
- ISU AdminTools, End-of-course Checklist (<http://bit.ly/2mrZXm0>) to ensure your gradebook is in order.

Need help?

Stop by our CELT Open Labs. visit CELT's Canvas Open Labs webpage (<http://bit.ly/canvas-open-lab>) for days, times, and location or contact Canvas 24/7 support by clicking on the ?Help icon on the Global Navigation menu (far left of your screen) in Canvas for the 24/7 support options.

CELT's October Workshops

To view our program descriptions and our most up-to-date schedule, visit CELT's Event and Registration webpage (<http://bit.ly/celtevents>):

- Seminar, Discuss Published Education Research in Your Discipline, Oct. 7 (4:10-5 p.m.)
- Workshop, Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR), Oct. 10 (9-4:30 p.m.)
- Seminar, ISU Online Learning Community (ISU-OLC), Oct. 11 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Seminar, Service-Learning Teaching and Learning Community, Oct. 23 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- Workshop, Navigating controversial topics in the classroom, Oct. 29 (4:10-5 p.m.)

How to Register

For in-person events, register via the Learn@ISU website (<http://learn.iastate.edu>), or email your name, department, name of the event, date of the event to celt@iastate.edu. Many of our workshops are available in-person and/or online via Zoom. If it's offered online via Zoom, registration will be a part of the ISU Event Calendar entry.