

Technology for Efficient and Effective Feedback on Student Work

Leslie A. Salley :: Lecturer
Department of English :: Clemson University

Why Grade Online?

- Saves resources
- Helps students easily incorporate changes
- Keeps archive of changes to show progress
- Eliminates lost or misplaced papers for students and instructors

You may ask yourself why you would want to grade online, here are some basic reasons.

Saves resources – saves trees

Helps students easily incorporate changes – on the Word feedback features we will look at, you can upload those directly to Blackboard or send them to students and they can quickly implement the changes on screen without problem

Keeps archive of changes to show progress – often I wonder if students are learning anything in classes, these methods help show how much students learn and whether or not they are effectively able to implement what you ask them to

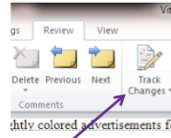
Eliminates lost or misplaced papers for students and instructors – this eliminates lost work by having students deliver their assignments directly online

Options

- Word: Track changes, comment feature, and Quick Parts
- Blackboard: rubrics and in-line grading
- Other possibilities?

Word: Track changes, comment feature, and Quick Parts

Microsoft Word features: Track Changes



Under the Review menu in Word, Track Changes is an option. If selected, a second reader can type directly into the document. You can cross out words, change formatting, ask questions or edit directly into the document.

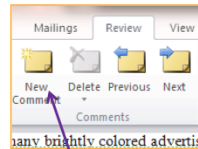
Track changes keeps the original text one color and the added text is a different color, so it is easy to tell what the teacher suggested and what the student began with.

yellow clouds sweeping across it, signifying balance, harmony, and strength. ~~All the~~ The
carefully chosen colors ~~are carefully chosen to~~ give the audience the impression that Vitafer will
make them healthy and full, in body and spirit.

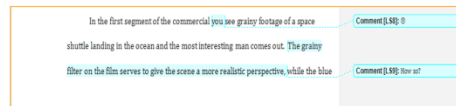
Track changes: you can find it under the Review menu in Word, if you select it you can see that the student work is in black and then any change that I make strikes out the student work and adds my work in red. These changes help students see what I want them to change

Microsoft Word features: Comments

The comment feature is located in the Review menu of Word. To use it, simply highlight a section of text to comment on and click New Comment.



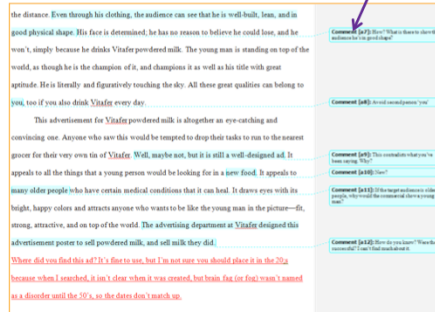
Notice that Word will highlight one word or even a punctuation mark or entire paragraphs—so you can comment on higher order or lower order concerns.



The comment feature is also located in the review menu. To use it you highlight a section of text to comment on and then click new comment. The information that I highlighted becomes a different color and then it allows me to comment. If you have a question you can highlight as much as a mark or a letter to an entire block of text

Comments continued

On the right is a sample marked essay. I used both the comment feature and the track changes feature.



The screenshot shows a document with several paragraphs of text. A purple arrow points to a comment box on the right side of the document. The comment box contains the text: "Comment [J42] [J42] What is there to like in this advertisement for powdered milk?". The document text includes the following paragraphs:

the distance. Even through his clothing, the audience can see that he is well-built, lean, and in good physical shape. His face is determined, he has no reason to believe he could lose, and he won't, simply because he drinks Vitafer powdered milk. The young man is standing on top of the world, as though he is the champion of it, and champions it as well as his title with great aptitude. He is literally and figuratively touching the sky. All these great qualities can belong to you, too if you also drink Vitafer every day.

This advertisement for Vitafer powdered milk is altogether an eye-catching and convincing one. Anyone who saw this would be tempted to drop their tasks to run to the nearest grocer for their very own tin of Vitafer. Well, maybe not, but it is still a well-designed ad. It appeals to all the things that a young person would be looking for in a new food. It appeals to many older people who have certain medical conditions that it can heal. It draws eyes with its height, happy colors and attracts anyone who wants to be like the young man in the picture—fit, strong, attractive, and on top of the world. The advertising department at Vitafer designed this advertisement poster to sell powdered milk, and sell milk they did.

Where did you find this ad? It's due to you, but I'm not sure you should place it in the 20's because when I searched, it isn't clear when it was created, but brain fax (or fax) wasn't named as a disorder until the 50's, so the dates don't match up.

Comment [J43] [J43] This reminds me that you've been eating Vitafer.

Comment [J44] [J44] Good!

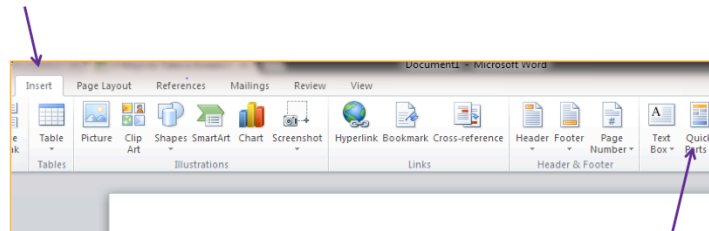
Comment [J45] [J45] It's the ingredients in the Vitafer that made the advertisement so convincing.

Comment [J46] [J46] How do you know? I wonder how convincing it is. I think it's great.

You can see how a document might look at the end of an editing session

MS Word Features: Quick Parts

Quick Parts is located under Word's **Insert** menu.



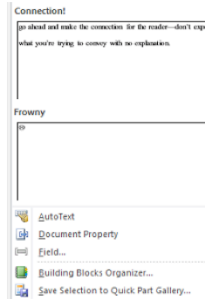
Quick Parts is a feature Word offers in addition to the comment feature. If you are like me you will find yourself typing the same comments over and over, so Quick Parts is located under Word's Insert menu

Quick Parts, cont.

If you find yourself typing the same comment over and over, you can choose to make it a Quick Part.

Eventually you may notice that you're typing similar comments about a specific idea, grammar mistake, or point, and you may want to do some work to save your comments to Word's Quick Part gallery.

The Quick Part gallery is stored in the program, so it is not the best if you move between machines (desktop and laptop or home computer/work computer), but it can be quite useful if you are a Windows user and you're working on one machine.

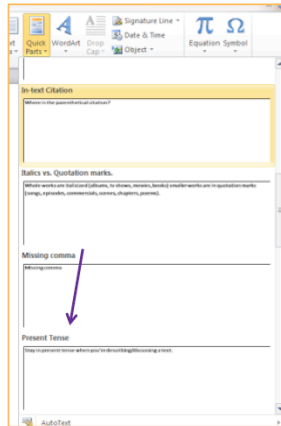


To save information to the Quick Parts gallery, you should highlight a comment you have made then go to the Quick Parts gallery, when you click Quick Parts, it drops down a menu on the right and the last option is save selection to Quick Parts Gallery, that is how you will save the comment. It will make it an option to put in all sorts of papers.

The Quick Part gallery is actually stored in the Word program. It is not the best to use if you are traveling between multiple machines or if you are using a Mac, it does not work well on Macs.

Quick Parts, cont.

Each time you click Quick Parts, the items you've previously entered populate. You can insert them directly into the body of what you're writing, or you can insert the text into a comment (you have to create the comment first, then go to Insert and then Quick Parts).



“Stay in present tense when you’re describing/discussing a text.”

Each time you click Quick Parts, the items you've previously entered populate. You can insert them directly into the body of what you're writing, or you can insert the text into a comment (you have to create the comment first, then go to Insert and then Quick Parts).

Blackboard

Blackboard offers several ways to provide feedback for students.

Feedback can be given on multiple kinds of assignments including discussion board forums as well as test questions, and assignments submitted via the grade book.

Last year, Bb introduced rubrics via the Course Tools, which allows instructors to create assignment specific rubrics.

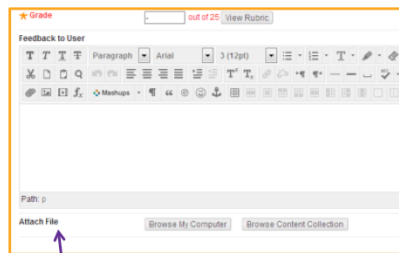
This year, Bb introduced in-line grading, which allows instructors to comment directly on uploaded assignments.

Blackboard: Feedback

One way to provide students feedback is to type in the feedback box linked to any assignment a student turns in via Bb.

An instructor can type directly into the box and can use Bb's editing tools.

It's also possible to upload a marked up version of an assignment, like what we just went over.



The feedback feature is located in any of the assignment areas; if a student submits an assignment you have the option to give them this grade, you can then attach and use a rubric or you can type directly into this box, information about the assignment that you want students to know about the assignment they turned in. You can also attach a file, the marked up file that I showed you earlier, this is how I give students that information. I grade the assignment then I upload the file I edited, they can see that and the score. You would just go to browse my computer here and attach like an email.

Bb: Rubrics

Many of you may already use rubrics to help streamline the grading process and allow students to see how they will be graded on a particular assignment.

Any assignment created in Bb can be linked to a rubric, and once a rubric is created, it can be shared between courses and sometimes institutions.

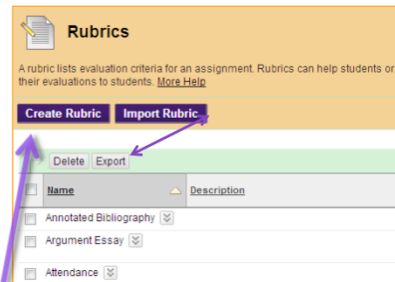
The good thing about using rubric via Blackboard is that it saves the rubric, you can use it with any assignment, and through classes, so if you teach multiple sections of the same class with multiple Blackboards you can use it that way or if you have a rubric that would work in more than one course, you can use it for more than one course and more than one assignment.

Create Rubrics

You can get to the Create Rubrics area in a few ways, but the easiest is through the Course Tools menu on the course page.

Once there, click create rubric.

After you've created the rubric you can export it between sections, courses, and sometimes institutions.



After exporting it you can import it to wherever you would like

Bb Rubrics, cont.

After creating a name for the rubric, you can create the rows and columns.

Bb has default fields, but you can change those and add columns and rows.

Bb allows instructors to choose between the types percent and point as well as range options.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Rubric creation interface. At the top, it says "Criteria (rows) for measuring Levels of Achievement (columns)". Below this, there are several fields and options:

- Sum:** A dropdown menu set to "Rubric Type".
- Percent Range:** A dropdown menu.
- Show Criteria Weight:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Levels of Achievement_2:** A title for the rubric.
- Criteria:** A table with five columns representing achievement levels: "F/Little Success", "D/Inadequate", "C/Adequate", "B/Effective", and "A/Excellent".

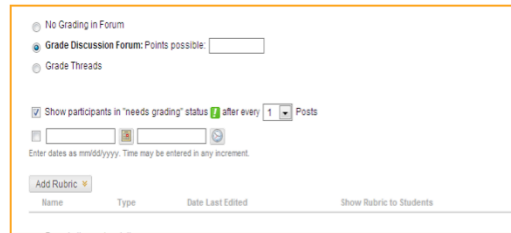
F/Little Success	D/Inadequate	C/Adequate	B/Effective	A/Excellent
Percent 0 to 59	Percent 60 to 69	Percent 70 to 79	Percent 80 to 89	Percent 90 to 100
Demonstrate less success analyzing the rhetorical strategies	May misunderstand or misrepresent the	Adequately analyzes the rhetorical strategies the author	Effectively analyzes the rhetorical strategies used by the	Meets or exceeds expectations

If you aren't the greatest at math, Blackboard won't set up faulty rubric, they make the instructor distribute the points effectively so it all matches 100%.

Bb Rubrics, cont.

When you create an assignment or a graded discussion forum, you will see the Add Rubric button.

After clicking it, you can select the rubric you created.



The screenshot shows the 'Add Rubric' dialog box in Blackboard. It has three radio button options: 'No Grading in Forum', 'Grade Discussion Forum: Points possible' (which is selected), and 'Grade Threads'. Below these is a checkbox for 'Show participants in "needs grading" status' which is checked, followed by a dropdown menu set to '1' and the word 'Posts'. There are two empty input fields with a calendar icon on the right. Below the input fields is a small text note: 'Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy. Time may be entered in any increment.' At the bottom left is an 'Add Rubric' button with a dropdown arrow. At the bottom right is a 'Show Rubric to Students' checkbox. Below these elements is a table header with columns: 'Name', 'Type', 'Date Last Edited', and 'Show Rubric to Students'.

You can also decide how much of the rubric students will see.

When you decide how much of the rubric students will see you can decide if they will see the entire rubric before they submit assignment or after they submit assignment or if they will see the rubric with comments after they submit the assignment. You can even say they can never see the rubric.

Blackboard: Inline grading

Earlier this year, Bb unveiled their newest grading feature, inline grading; Clemson doesn't have this feature active, but I'm hopeful it becomes available for use in the near future.

Students upload documents via an assignment link, and there are comment features built in, much like on Microsoft Word. The benefit is that there are tablet capabilities and a few different text tracking/editing options.

Other options

Turnitin offers a commenting feature as well as an originality report.

Googledocs can be used to show progress and could also be used to edit between students or instructors.

Turnitin now also has an iPad app.

Questions? Other ideas?

- Which of these looks like an idea you can incorporate in your class?
- What else do you use to aid in the efficiency of grading student work?