

INFORMAL MID-SEMESTER TEACHING EVALUATIONS

On October 29 we will reach the mid-point of the semester. Although the students will do final course evaluations at the end of the semester it is useful to receive some feedback when we can actually make some changes during the semester. Generally students can give us some useful responses that enable us to make improvements – small or large – for the remainder of the class. It is also important for students to see how they experience the structure of the course, the activities, the assignments, and our teaching. It enables them to see that they are a part of the class and that we are trying to teach to their needs.

There are many ways to do these evaluations. I think we would all agree that asking the students questions such as “Am I doing okay?” or “Do you like me?” is not useful. As with process letters and peer reviewing, students will need some questions/prompts to guide their responses. Included here are sample questions. You may want to use all of these questions or adapt them. It is important to keep in mind you want to ask questions that will elicit the information that will enable you to gauge how the class is going. It is also important to keep in mind that you need to ask questions about things you are actually willing to change.

Please remember these mid-semester evaluations are for your use only. They won't be turned into the Writing Program Office or read by anyone other than you. However, I would encourage you to show them to your Resource Staff mentors and/or course directors. Sometimes someone outside of the class can help us interpret our students' comments and brainstorm with us for ways to make changes in the class.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the main things you have been learning or getting out of the course so far?
2. Is there any aspect of writing that we have yet to touch on that you would like to see included in the course?
3. During the semester we have been doing various forms of writing and activities: for example, freewriting, peer review, reflective writing, private writing, whole class discussions, generative writing. Select one form of writing or activity and suggest ways we could make it more useful.
4. Do you have any other suggestions and/or comments about the class.