Open Campus

Analyzing the Dimensions of Quality Faculty Interaction in an Online Course

NACEP Professional Workshop
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Introduction

Adjunct faculty availability and "presence" in the online classroom are key elements to student success and satisfaction. Students appreciate online announcements, quick responses to posted questions, timely grading of assignments and assessments, weekly summaries and other activities supporting the learning experience. With this in mind, Open Campus expects online adjunct faculty to be active in the online classroom at least three times a week.

This presentation is an overview of the Open Campus Faculty Expectations, including a description and course observation results. This information also offers a bird's eye view of what administrators look for when observing an online course at Open Campus.

Background

- Formative course evaluations would generate results of the course from a student's perspective and instructors could make more informed decisions on cultivating a positive learning community that is connected and meaningful to the student. (Glassmeyer, Dibbs, & Jensen, 2011).

- In one study it was contended that a variety of variables affected student satisfaction. Communication, feedback, encouragement, accessibility, and interactivity all play a crucial role in student satisfaction (Leong, 2011).

Faculty and Student Communication

- Fostering a sense of community with shared goals can establish a sense of trust, belonging, and commitment. Such qualities are vital to the support of the online experience, success, and retention (Glassmeyer, Dibbs, & Jensen, 2011).

- Results from a study conducted in 2008 concluded that students reported higher satisfaction levels and academic gains when they received more consistent and personalized instructor feedback compared to those who received strictly collective feedback (Fish & Wickersham, 2009).

Overview of Course Expectations

- Contact Information
- Office Hours
- Weekly Announcements
- Correspondence within 24 hours
- Discussion Board Participation
- Grading and assignment feedback

Weekly Announcements

When posting weekly announcements, include a friendly introduction, and introduce topics and assignments for the week. You may also create a "mash-up" to add flair to your announcement. The video in this example pertains to communication, a topic covered in one of the course modules.

| Courses | Community | Content Collection | Library/Learning Commons | System Admin |

Weekly Announcememt

Posted on: Saturday, November 17, 2012

Tom Rath: Five Positives to One Negative is Healthy
Duration: (2:27)
User: betterlifecoaches – Added: 3/14/07

Watch Video

Hello students! I hope you are having a great weekend. Thanks for all your participation in discussion board this week. You shared some valuable aspects to promoting and maintaining well–being and good health. Hope you had the chance to check out the video clip I provided on Food Inc. If you find that one interesting, you may also like Supersize Me.

Please continue to work on your module assignments. Also, you should be working on the upcoming final paper. Remember, you can work individually or in a group.

In light of Discussion 8, take a look at this video on positive and negative communication. Enjoy. :)

9	**Module 8:** Communicating Effectively With Others	**Read** Chapter 7: Communicating Effectively With Others **Review** Online Exercises for Chapter 7	Module 8 Discussion	20	11/25 midnight
			Module 8 Quiz	20	11/25 midnight
					11/25

Discussion Board Participation Example

Be sure to participate in each discussion board at least 5 times. Also, remember to reply to "all" student s in the Introduction Discussion.

Community	Content Collection	Library/Learning Commons	System Admin

Thread: Discussion 3
Post: RE: Discussion 3
Author: Barbara Yankowy

Posted Date: October 17, 2012 5:36 PM
Status: Published

Hey Shauna. Are there other strategies you are using to better your time management? Just curious. I once worked on a chemical reduction experiment where I wrote down how I spent my time. A lot of it was on the internet. I then took steps to cut down and then had more free time to do other productive activities. Just curious. :)
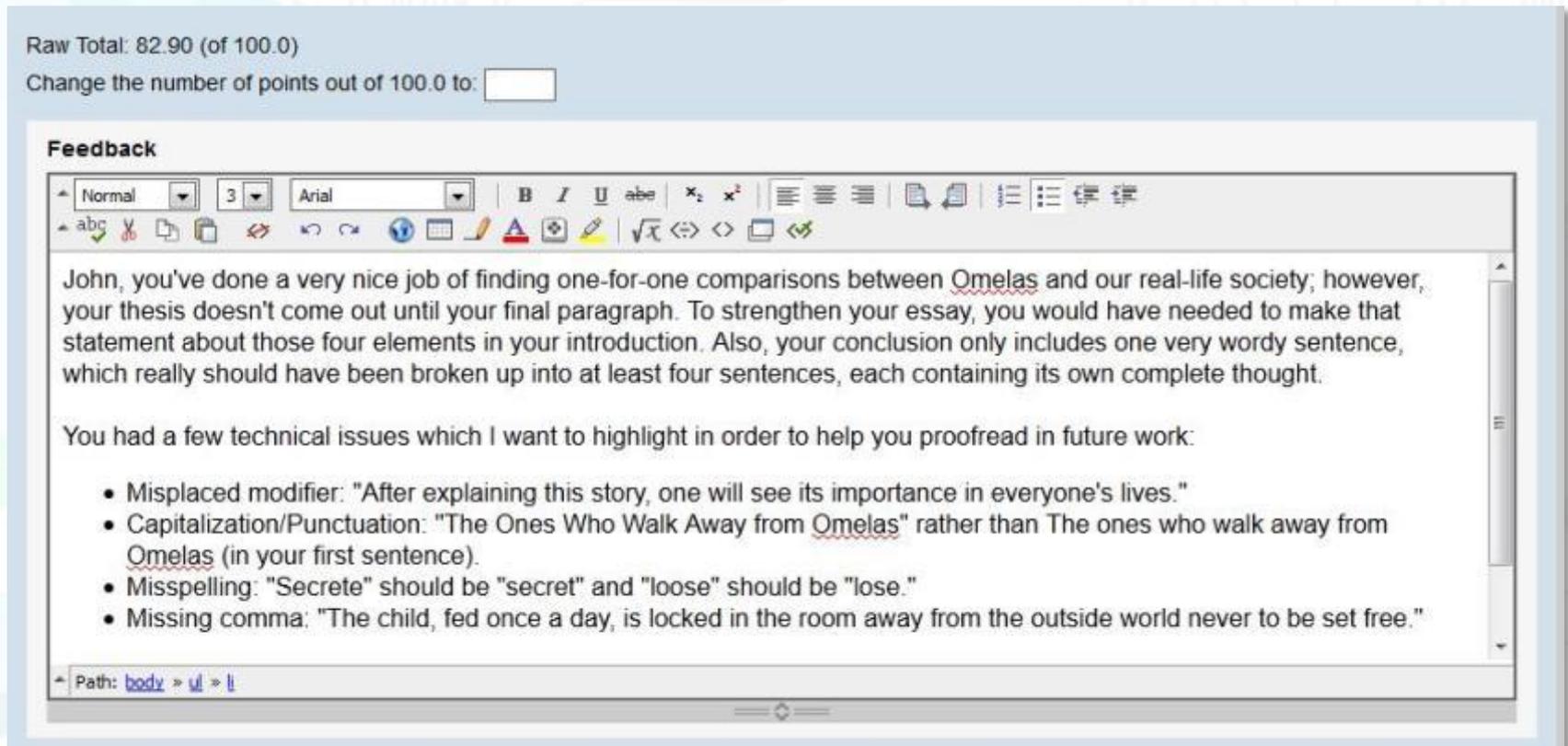
Tags: None

Reply | Quote | Mark as Unread

Thread: Discussion 3
Post: RE: Discussion 3
Author: Barbara Yankowy

Posted Date: October 16, 2012 5:17 PM
Status: Published

Nice post Mercedes. I too had issues with test taking. I once took a Statistics class and the day of one of the exams, my calculator did not work. My professor allowed me to use his. By that time I was flustered and already shaken. I wound up with a "C". Not bad for all that drama. :) Again, good job with this post.

Tags: None

Reply | Quote | Mark as Unread

Grading and Feedback Example

Offer feedback that is both positive, yet highlights areas of improvement.

Raw Total: 82.90 (of 100.0)

Change the number of points out of 100.0 to: [   ]

Feedback

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John, you've done a very nice job of finding one-for-one comparisons between Omelas and our real-life society; however, your thesis doesn't come out until your final paragraph. To strengthen your essay, you would have needed to make that statement about those four elements in your introduction. Also, your conclusion only includes one very wordy sentence, which really should have been broken up into at least four sentences, each containing its own complete thought.

You had a few technical issues which I want to highlight in order to help you proofread in future work:

- Misplaced modifier: "After explaining this story, one will see its importance in everyone's lives."
- Capitalization/Punctuation: "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" rather than The ones who walk away from Omelas (in your first sentence).
- Misspelling: "Secrete" should be "secret" and "loose" should be "lose."
- Missing comma: "The child, fed once a day, is locked in the room away from the outside world never to be set free."

Path: body » ul » li

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Discussion Board
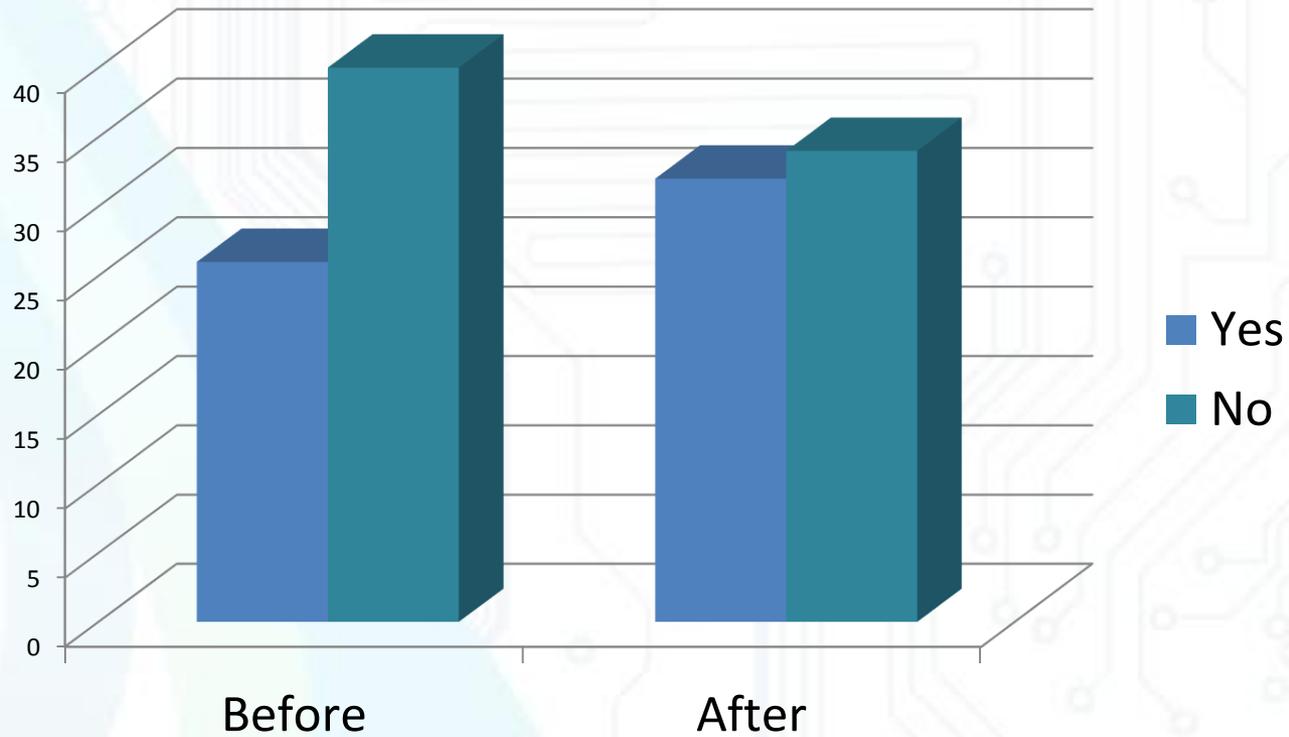
Responses and Corrections
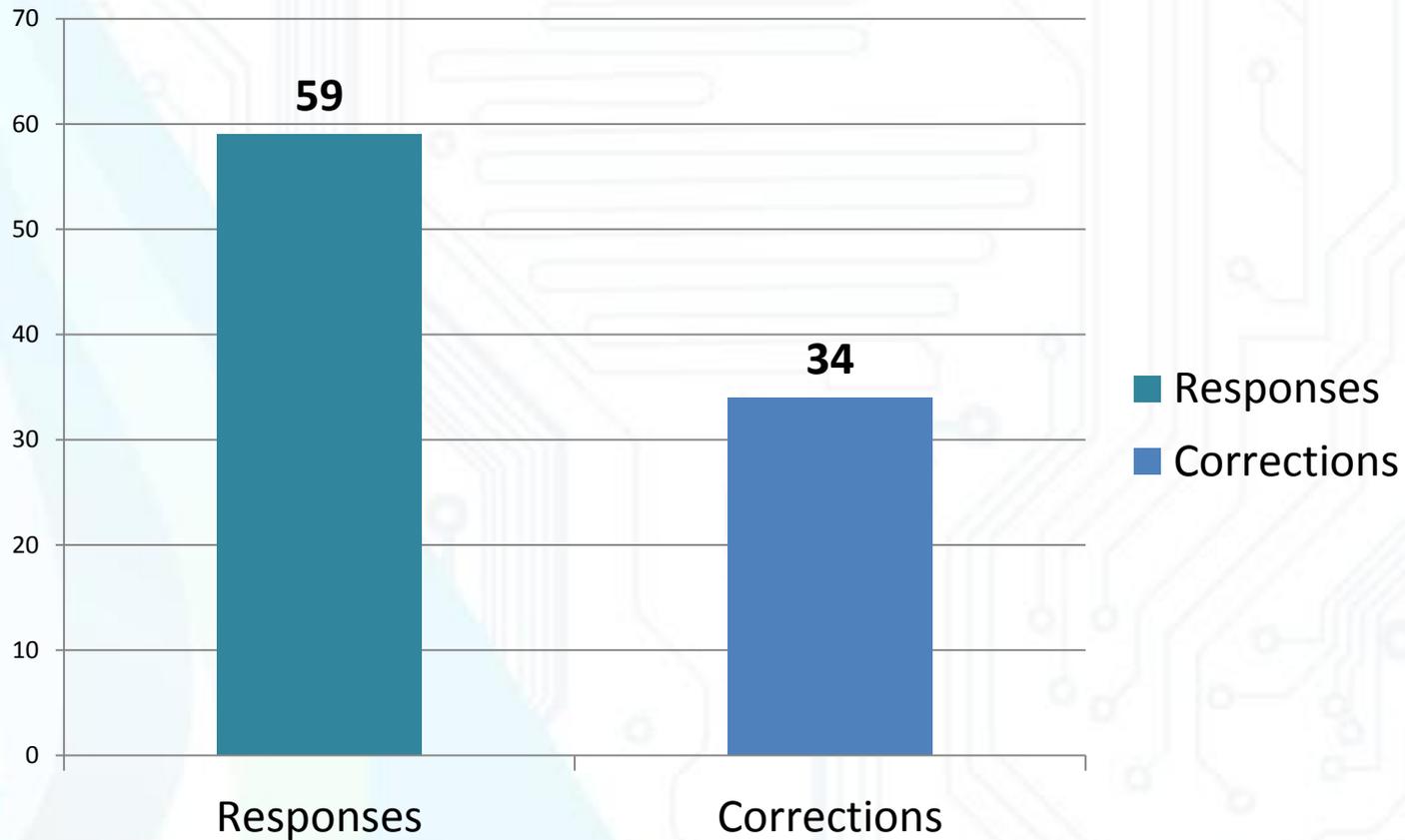
Positive Faculty Feedback

- Thank you! I will review these suggestions!

- Hello Barbara. I appreciate your feedback, this helps me to take notice of areas that I can improve on to be a better facilitator/instructor. Thanks.

- Thank you very much for the course observation update. I will be the first to agree there are areas of improvement needed on my end.

- Hi Barbara. I'll work on this. I have updated the Faculty Information in the sections where it was missing. An error on my part when I set it up.

- Barbara. I added the Bio and Commitment Statement to all of my courses. As I saw that was the only thing that I needed to update. However, if I did misinterpret anything please do not hesitate to let me know so that I can make sure that my courses meet the standards! Have a great day!

- Barbara, you are such an asset to FSCJ, you should get double whatever your salary is, plus many other perks! You have already gathered that I am always "shaky" and unsure about my classes. When you reassure me, I believe you--thank you!

Additional Benefits to Course Observations

Open Campus is able to maintain consistency with faculty participation in online courses.

Faculty are aware that Open Campus is dedicated to assisting them with professional development and helping them succeed.

Faculty feel more comfortable contacting us for assistance.

Developed professional relationships with faculty.

Faculty are more willing to assist with other outside projects i.e. General Education Requirements.

References

- Glassmeyer, D., M., Dibbs, R., A., Jensen, R., T. (2011). Determining utility of formative assessment through virtual community. *The Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, Vol. 12(1), pp. 23-35.

- Fish, W. W., Wickersham, L. E. (2009). Best practices for online instructors. *The Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, Vol. 10(3), pp. 279-284.

- Leong, P. (2011). Role of social presence and cognitive absorption in online learning environments. *Distance Education*, Vol. 32(1), pp. 5-28.