Peer review case studies
Step by step

Future Learn

Step 1: Integrate peer review

First, consider how you want to **integrate** peer review into your course. For example:

- **Where would the steps fit best?**

Do the Assignment, Review and Reflection steps need to follow one another sequentially?

Could they be interspersed with other steps?

- **What is the task asking learners to create?**

Could it be a blog post?

A business case?

This example shows how the Assignment, Review and Reflection steps can be interwoven with other steps.

*Please note that steps must be contained within the same Activity.

Example: Start Writing Fiction, The Open University

These courses may not be available to join at all times. If you cannot view the course, contact your Partnership Manager who will be able to enrol you.

WEEK 8: YOUR FINAL STORY

Sharing and reflecting on writing

Submit your story then take time to learn from your fellow writers. Read and comment on the final stories of your fellow writers and make notes in your journal.

Reflect

8.1	WRITING AND READING STORIES VIDEO (00:54)
8.2	SHARING YOUR STORY ASSIGNMENT
8.3	BEING YOUR OWN CRITIC ARTICLE
8.4	COMMENTING ON YOUR FELLOW WRITERS' STORIES REVIEW
8.5	BENEFITS OF GROUP WORK ARTICLE
8.6	REFLECT ON THE FEEDBACK ARTICLE
8.7	READ THE FEEDBACK REFLECTION

Step 2: Explain the task

Stage 1: Introducing the task

Now you need to explain the task to learners, in the **Assignment** step.

This is done in three stages, and the first is to **introduce** the task to learners. This example explains:

- How the assignment is framed in the context of what has been learnt so far

- The type of writing that is expected

- Why completing the assignment will be beneficial to learners, and will help them achieve the learning outcomes.

Example: <u>The Scientific Revolution, University of Groningen</u>

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Write a blog post on the Scientific Revolution

During these three weeks you investigated a number of issues surrounding the emergence of modern science.

You discovered how seventeenth-century natural philosophers aimed at advancing a new way of understanding and studying the natural world. You also learned how this 'new natural philosophy' remained in many respects indebted to the previous Aristotelian tradition. Several of the key-features that we associate with today's science (such as laboratories, experiments, the use of mathematical formulas) were introduced during the early modern period, and not without controversies. It is now time to put in practice all the knowledge and experience you acquired during this course and write down your own opinion about the history and the evolution of modern science.

We ask you to write a short blog post. Blog posts are very popular among philosophers and historians of philosophy, as you can see by browsing some popular philosophy blogs such as: dailynous, history of philosophy without any gaps, the mod squad, Digressions&Impressions, or newapps.

However, writing a blog post is not easy. It requires being able to translate what can be quite complex academic concepts and analyses into everyday language that people who have not studied these issues can understand and engage with. Being able to do this translation is an important skill to develop in order to be able to share your new knowledge and skills with others. In this assignment, we are giving you the opportunity to develop these skills and to develop and explore your own perspectives and opinions, based on research and analysis, on the role of evolution of early modern science and its relationships with today's scientific practices.

Support

Step 2: Explain the task

Stage 2: Writing guidelines

The second stage is to give **guidelines** on how to **write** the assignment.

- A word limit is set

- A 'big question' is presented

- Some examples are given about how learners can begin to consider the task

These features contribute to the learner's understanding of the assignment, give them a jumping off point if they are stuck, and help put them at ease if they are nervous.

Writing guidelines should be written in the step body text.

Example: The Scientific Revolution, University of Groningen

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Assignment

Write a short popular piece or blog post, designed for a newspaper or widely accessible website, of no more than 1000 words, reflecting on the following question:

What is the most important way (according to you) in which seventeenth- and eighteenth-century natural philosophy determined the emergence of the modern scientific approach we still use today?

You can consider some options such as:

- Because some controversies in early modern science proved the impossibility of using certain methods or practices to study the natural world.

- Because some concepts or practices introduced in early modern science are still valuable today.

- Because modern science progressively transformed the way in which we understand the relationship between science and society.

Step 2: Explain the task
Stage 3: Reviewing guidelines

The third stage is to give **guidelines** on how to **review** another learner's assignment.

- As learners review others' assignments, guidelines on this are important.
- The example to the right gives clear criteria for learners to use in their reviews.
- These can also help learners think about how to write their own assignment.

Reviewing guidelines are included in the step using the mandatory

Example: <u>The Scientific Revolution, University of Groningen</u>

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ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

The reviewers will be asked to give you feedback on the following aspects of your assignment, so you should consider these when writing:

- Is the blog written in a style that it is easy to read and engaging to follow (including a catchy title)?
- Does it have a clear main argument that is made in the introduction and flows logically until the conclusion?
- Does the blog post utilise appropriate sources?

Best practice example of reviewing guidelines

Guidelines

These will be shown to learners when they are writing the assignment and to anyone reviewing the assignment.

Guideline one *

Guideline two *

Guideline three *

How to submit reviewing guidelines in Course Creator

You could even go one step further…

This example from the University of Southampton explains why a peer review task is helpful for learners, and reassures them about any worries they might have.Could you include something similar in your peer review activity?

Peer review activity: how to get the best out of this

A peer review activity is an opportunity for you to share your assignment with your peers within this learning community and for you to feedback on each other's ideas to develop them further.

In practice this means that:

- You will need to follow the instructions given and write a short (maximum 200 words) assignment and then submit it (don't forget to take into account the assignment guidelines that your reviewer(s) will be using to review your assignment!).

- After you submit your assignment it will then be randomly allocated to another learner on the course who has also submitted an assignment.

- They will then feedback on your assignment directly relating the feedback to the assignment guidelines.

- The work and the feedback will remain private between the two of you (the only other people who will be able to access your assignment are the course administrators and they will not share it).

- As any learner who has submitted work may review more than one piece of work, you may receive more than one review.

- You are encouraged to add your work and any reviews that you receive into your learning / research log and to reflect upon them.

What does it mean to provide feedback?

Remember to be fair and balanced in your feedback and evaluate against the criteria given. You are there to help each other to develop your ideas further.

What does it mean to receive feedback?

Feedback can come in many different formats. Most commonly it comes from authority figures such as teachers and lecturers, sometimes in written format, but also in general conversation. However, it is also valuable to hear what other people think too; friends, peers and relatives who might be able to add a fresh perspective to your ideas.

What if my work is criticised?

Even if the feedback feels like it is overly negative to you, use it as an opportunity to rethink your work by reflecting on how you can improve it. Do not take any criticism personally.

Example: Developing Your Research Project, University of Southampton

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