

Developing Assignment Self-assessment Sheets to Promote Student Learning

Including Self-Assessment in the Curriculum

Self-assessment is one of the most important skills that students attain for future professional development and lifelong learning. Self-assessment enables students to develop:

- a sense of responsibility for their own learning and the ability and desire to continue learning,
- self-knowledge and the ability to assess their own performance critically and accurately, and
- an understanding of how to apply their knowledge and abilities in different contexts.¹

Guidelines for staff on self-assessment are available [here](#). The guidelines include the rationale for using self-assessment, how best to prepare students for self-assessment, various models and examples of self-assessment, and the benefits and barriers associated with self-assessment.

Designing Self-Assessment Sheets

One self-assessment method common in Trinity is the use of self-assessment sheets attached to completed student assignments. These sheets can provide an opportunity for students to propose a grade for their work, based on set criteria, and explain the rationale for their proposed grade. Alternatively, self-assessment sheets can focus solely on prompting students to consider their learning from the viewpoint of an assessor.

Questions included in self-assessment sheets also prompt students to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their work and consider what this tells them about their own learning and about actions that may need to be taken in the future. Depending on whether the student is in the earlier or later stages of their programme of study, these questions can be framed with greater/less depth.

The completion of a self-assessment sheet should not be an onerous task. Rather, it should enhance students' positive engagement with their learning. It is best to request that students respond to a maximum of three questions per assignment; even one question can suffice in some cases. Also, it is advisable to set a low word limit for responses to questions so that students can think through and focus their responses.

Below are some questions, which could be included in self-assessment sheets for students. They are aligned with different programme stages.

¹ Grantz, R and Gruber, R. (2014), 'How well did I learn what I learned? The Art of Self Assessment'. Journal of the Academy of Business Education, 15, p. 26.

Sample questions for students in the early stages of a programme of study:

- Taking the marking criteria into account, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Why?
- Reflecting upon your work, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Why?
- In which aspects of this assignment do you think you performed best?
- Which aspects of this assignment did you find the most difficult?
- Is there anything you would change if you were to complete this assignment again?
- What is the most important thing you learned from completing this assignment?
- Is there any specific area of the assignment on which you would like to receive feedback?

Sample questions for students at a middle stage of their programme of study:

- Taking the marking criteria into account, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Please justify your proposed mark.
- Reflecting upon your work, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Please justify your proposed mark.
- What do you feel are the strengths of the assignment you are submitting? What helped you to make those aspects strong?
- What do you feel are the weakest aspects of the assignment you are submitting? Why do you think those aspects were not as strong as other aspects?
- What actions might you take in the future to assist you with those aspects with which you struggled?
- In what ways have you incorporated relevant feedback you received previously into this assignment?
- Did you learn anything in other modules that helped you in this assignment?
- How did you incorporate feedback from previous assignments into this assignment?
- Is there anything you learned by doing this assignment that you feel will be helpful in other modules?

Sample questions for students in later stages of a programme of study:

- Taking the marking criteria into account, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Please justify your proposed mark.
- Reflecting upon your work, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment? Please justify your proposed mark.
- What actions could you take to improve your mark in an assignment such as this in the future?
- Is there anything you learned by doing this assignment that you feel will be helpful in your future career?
- Which aspects of the Trinity Graduate Attributes do you feel you developed through this assignment?
- What, if anything, did you learn about yourself, as a learner, from completing this assignment?

The following are sample self-assessment sheets for student assignments. These samples include introductory texts and selected questions. If students are already requested to fill in an assignment submission form when they submit an assignment (see example [here](#)), the self-assessment question(s) may be incorporated/appended to that.

Sample self-assessment sheet for a first-year essay assignment

You are being asked to complete this self-assessment sheet to allow you to reflect upon and articulate what you learned through this assignment and how such learning came about.

Becoming comfortable with assessing your own work and being able to evaluate critically its strengths and weaknesses is important, because it develops your abilities as an independent learner. This will be important as you progress through university and begin life as a graduate, when you will be expected to monitor and manage your own learning and outcomes.

Student ID number:	
Module code and title:	
Name of lecturer:	
Title of assignment:	
Department/School:	
Date submitted:	
Taking the marking criteria into account, what do you feel is a fair mark for this assignment?	
Why do you feel this is a fair mark for your submitted assignment? (Max 300 words)	

Sample self-assessment sheet for a final-year group project assignment

You are being asked to complete this individual self-assessment sheet to allow you to reflect upon and articulate what you learned through this assignment and how such learning came about.

Being comfortable with assessing your own work and being able to evaluate critically its strengths and weaknesses is important, because it develops your abilities as an independent learner. This will be important as you begin life as a graduate, when you will be expected to monitor and manage your own learning and outcomes.

Student ID number(s):	
Module code and title:	
Name of lecturer:	
Title of assignment:	
Department/School:	
Date submitted:	
What, if anything, did you learn about yourself, as a learner, from completing this assignment? (Max 300 words)	
Which aspects of the Trinity Graduate Attributes do you feel you developed through this assignment? (Max 300 words)	

