

PROVIDING POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Phrase your feedback in positive rather than negative terms, communicating what they need to do to improve rather than how they fell short with this assignment. This will make it easier for students to understand and receive feedback, and they tend to feel less judged and criticized. Providing feedback where students can take action in the future leads to more of a sense of empowerment rather than failure. When in doubt, provide feedback that you would be able to hear if it were your paper being evaluated

Here are some suggestions:

AVOID THESE NEGATIVES...

Vague
Awkward
Wrong
Incomplete
Fragment
Confusing
Poorly written
No

INSTEAD USE THESE POSITIVES

Need to include more detail/examples
Clarify
Please review this concept/author's idea
A good start/Also discuss...
Elaborate and complete this idea
Explain this more
Please seek help from writing center
Not exactly, please review this concept

Also remember to provide positive feedback in areas where students excelled, noting where good points were made and focus on what they can build on for future work. Try and start feedback with a positive comment (good start, interesting ideas, good overall understanding, and so forth).

*Source: Karen Sternheimer, Associate Professor (Teaching) of Sociology and
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