

A comparison of three Peer Assessment Tools

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July 2018

Blackboard self and peer assessment – enables lightweight peer review of typed answers as well as uploaded files. Each question can be assessed using multiple criteria using numerical scores and optional typed feedback. Each student's average score can be automatically copied to the Grade Centre.

Turnitin PeerMark – the most fully-featured option. Student submissions can also be graded by the tutor as usual using Turnitin Feedback Studio. Although the peer reviews provide students with numerical and text feedback, the actual grade each student receives for this peer-review activity can be based on scores awarded by the tutor for the quality of the feedback they have provided.

TEAMMATES – this enables students working in groups to provide each other with feedback on their engagement with the process and contribution to the work. The whole process is automated and uses personalized emails to gather the feedback and send the results. Its ease of use enables it to be used formatively during the group activity, and it can also be used summatively to generate individual grades.

Blackboard self and peer assessment

This is a standard feature of Blackboard Learn, which enables students to gain feedback from their peers on questions they answer through Blackboard.

1. The tutor creates one or more questions and their assessment criteria.
2. Students answer those questions by typing a short answer, typing or copy-and-pasting a longer essay answer, or by uploading a file. Note that student submissions are not checked for plagiarism.
3. Each student reviews the submissions by one or more other students, and awards points for each criteria. They can also add type feedback.
4. The tutor can view the submissions, the feedback and the scores. They can choose to copy the scores to the Grade Centre.

The tutor sets the submission dates & times (start, finish) and evaluation dates & times (start, finish). Other options include anonymous evaluations, self-evaluations, and the number of submissions each student needs to evaluate.

Each assessment must have one or more questions that students must answer by typing a simple short-answer, a longer essay response or by uploading a file. The tutor can, if they choose, add a 'model response' to a question which can be seen by students when they are evaluating the answers.

Each question must have one or more criteria that the other students use to evaluate the answer submitted. Essay responses generally require several criteria. Answers can also have an automatically graded word count criteria e.g. 200 words +/- 20 words.

When students grade another student's work, they review the answer submitted, award points for each criterion and type some feedback if requested.

The tutor can see which students have completed self-evaluation (if required) and how many other evaluations they have completed (e.g. 2 out of the 3 required). They can also view and/or download the submissions, the feedback and the scores.

The scores can be copied to the Grade Centre, but the tutor needs to click to enable this. Each student's score is an average of all the scores they received.

[Online guides from Blackboard](#)

Also some helpful YouTube videos from Purdue University (and there are [lots more](#)):

- [Creating assessments and questions](#)
- [Creating criteria](#)
- [Grading an assessment](#)

Turnitin PeerMark

This is a standard part of the Turnitin service, which enables students to anonymously peer review assignment submissions.

1. The tutor creates a normal Turnitin assignment which requires students to submit a single document. This can be graded by the tutor as normal using Turnitin Feedback Studio.
2. The tutor then creates a linked PeerMark assignment with one or more peer-review questions. These can be numerical, based on a scale (from 2-5 points) with the extreme points labelled as required (e.g. 5 points from *Very poor* to *Very good*) or free text response with an optional minimum word count.
3. The tutor selects how many peer-reviews are assigned to each student, whether they are automatically chosen or student-selected, and whether self-review is also required.
4. Students receive their reviews (scores and written feedback) as the other students complete them.
5. The tutor can see how many reviews each student has completed (e.g. 2 out of the 3 required). They can easily view (and/or print) all of the reviews written by a student, as well as all of the reviews written about that student's submission. The scale scores and averages for each submission can be downloaded as an Excel file.
6. The tutor can grade the quality of their peer feedback – this can be automatic (full points if a review is completed) or manual, where the tutor grades each review and the system does the maths. The tutor can also write their own review to supplement the peer reviews, and use the PeerMarks tool palette to add comments and annotations to the submission.

Questions can be added from a library – the sample library contains some really useful questions – and tutors can create a new library from the questions created for an assignment.

You may want to disallow late submissions to the original assignment as this leads to irregularities if the peer marking has already started e.g. those late submissions will probably never be peer reviewed.

[Online guide from Turnitin.](#)

TEAMMATES

This is a free online service developed and provided by the National University of Singapore. It has been approved for use by Aston's legal services and complies with our data protection policies and GDPR.

Tutors must request their own instructor account by emailing the TEAMMATES administrator. You must have a Google email account to do this as the system runs on Google's application servers. Students use their Aston email to use the system and do not need a Google account.

1. The tutor adds a new course and then creates a new feedback session with a start and finish date/time. Each course can have one or more feedback sessions e.g. two formative followed by one summative.
2. The tutor creates one or more questions for the new feedback session. These can be multiple-choice, multiple-answer, numerical scales, distribute 100 points among options or team members, rank options or team members, rubrics or free text entry. There are also options for the feedback path (who is giving feedback to whom) and visibility (who can see the responses and whether they are anonymous).
3. The tutor uploads a CSV data file listing each student's name, their email address and which group they are in.
4. At the start date/time, each student is sent an individual email containing a personal link which opens their feedback form. They must complete and submit this online by the finish date/time.
5. The tutor can easily send a single reminder email a day or so before the deadline to students who have not yet submitted their feedback.
6. The tutor can review the results, moderate (edit) them if necessary and add comments. The results can be printed and/or downloaded as a CSV data file.
7. Once this is done, the tutor manually chooses to release the results to the students, who will receive an individual email containing a personal link to view their results online. They can print and/or download their feedback.

See the [TEAMMATES](#) website for details, [help page](#), a video tour and to request a free instructor account. Please contact Adam Warren (a.warren@aston.ac.uk) if you plan to use TEAMMATES, as CLIPP wish to support and evaluate its use at Aston.