Lesson Analysis – Closing a Learning Loop

Student Feedback Technique Series #6

As part of a diagnostic teaching approach, we need information regarding how students receive a lesson. After all, good diagnosticians check to see if the plan prescribed had the desired effect!

The most important component of this week’s Student Feedback Technique (SFT) helps students close a learning loop by having them identify and briefly explain key concepts in a lesson. Doing this in their own words involves a higher order thinking skill.

Part 2 of this “lesson analysis” asks students to identify questions they have on the subject, also a key thinking skill that has the additional benefit of possibly providing entry to a subsequent lesson. Use the final part of the “lesson analysis” at your option. Because we think collaborative learning is important, we include a self-analysis for students to identify how they helped another student. This also gets them thinking about learning as learning.

This technique is most valuable when done regularly. The more students do this, the better they get at the thinking skills involved, and the more information they provide.

Process:

Use the Lesson Analysis form below and ask students to:

1. Fill out this SFT individually in 5 – 6 minutes
2. Be as complete as possible in their responses – emphasize that there are no “right answers” – that you are merely gathering information so that you can tailor learning activities and your teaching directly to their needs
3. Reiterate that this is not a quiz
4. Tell students you will report back to them quickly and show how their input has affected your teaching

In the next The Practical Professor: Tip Series #6
Lesson Analysis

It is often useful to do a bit of summary thinking when we finish a lesson. Please be as complete as you can be, while also being brief. **This is not a quiz or test** – this *helps you* be clear about what you know, and *helps me* determine what we need to cover in a future lesson. Thanks for your help.

What do you consider to be the **main topic** we covered in this lesson? Please explain it in your own words.

What are the **two** most important things **you learned** in this lesson? Write a sentence about why each was important to you.

Do you have any questions about anything in this lesson?

What did you do to help other students learn and/or participate in this lesson?

Name:
Also available!

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