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Grading

1. How many essays do I need to grade for benchmark grading?
If you choose the benchmark grading option, you will be asked to grade the top 5 and bottom 5 essays as determined by the student raters. This will set the high and low range for the Writing Grades for the other papers in the class.

Since Benchmark Grading requires 10 submissions, for classes with 10 or fewer students, curved grading is a better option. You can always grade the submissions yourself and use the grade override function to override the 0-100 Writing Grade in classes with <10 students.

Please keep the 10 submission requirement for Benchmark Grading in mind for group assignments as well.

2. How does the "Teacher's Rating is" setting in the grading options influence students' grades?
The "Teacher's Rating is" setting handles the weighting of any teacher review. That is, if a teacher uses the same rubric students use to review documents and make this review within Peerceptiv, this setting influences how the ratings provided in that review are used.

If you choose "overrides," only the teacher ratings will be used to calculate a student's Writing Grade if a teacher review was made on her document. If you choose "sliding scale," your ratings will be counted at a fixed weight, which you also set.

If you plan to complete teacher reviews on documents within the tool, you can choose the "Teacher's Rating Is" setting that works best for your plans. It is recommended that you complete any teacher reviews you plan to complete before entering Benchmark Grades. Completing teacher reviews is one way that you can influence students' Reviewing Grades, because your ratings will also be used to assess student Reviewing Accuracy.

If you do Benchmark Grading, you'll assign 0 to 100 Writing Grades to the top 5 and bottom 5 peer-rated submissions. If providing teacher reviews, you'll want to do this before assigning Benchmark Grades so your reviews influence which papers are in the high and low sets. The 10 papers you assign a benchmark
grade will receive that number as their Writing Grade, and all other papers will be assigned a grade between those set points.

3. **Will fewer reviewers cause grade inflation?**

Peerceptiv requires at least 3 reviewers per paper for the most effective results. Students’ ratings are evaluated for accuracy. Peerceptiv will weight the reviews of students who provide outlier ratings lower than students whose ratings correspond to the order of mean peer ratings. There is also an option to download a spreadsheet showing the work completed by each student, so you can see if a student did not do all the reviews or back evaluations.

While fewer reviewers doesn’t necessarily cause grade inflation, the greater the number of required reviews, the greater the validity and reliability of the grades.

4. **When will grades become visible in Moodle?**

Grades should immediately import to Moodle after the back-evaluation deadline. If you make updates to student grades, like numerical grade overrides or teacher ratings, please click Re-Calculate Grades on the Assignment Overview page to push grades again.

5. **Will “Override” or “Only Graded by Instructor” functions delay automatic grading so the instructor can determine the grade? What is the difference between those functions?**

These functions do not delay the automatic grade push— instructors should click “Re-Calculate Grades” after making any changes after the back-eval deadline to push grades to the Moodle gradebook, because the automatic grade push only happens at the final assignment deadline.

The “Only Graded by Instructor” feature creates an assignment where students are not required to complete peer reviews or complete back-evaluations. In such assignments, instructor’s responses to the review rubric are used to create the grades.

The “Teacher’s Rating is Override” function acts so that any ratings provided in a teacher review are used to determine paper grades and all student ratings are ignored when an instructor review is provided.

If instructors want to hold grades until sure they’re the grades they’d like to make visible to students and push to Moodle, they can use the Advanced Setting at the assignment-level, "Require Manual Release to Publish Grades."

With manual release required, an additional button will appear on the Assignment Overview screen, a button titled "Publish Grades." Grades will remain invisible for students and will not push to Moodle until instructors press this Publish Grades button when the assignment is set to "Require Manual Release to Publish Grades."

6. **Does self-evaluation affect a student’s grade?**

When enabled, self evaluation is a required task and thus influence the Task Grade (total reviewing tasks = # of required reviews + 1 self eval). However, self-evaluation ratings are ignored when Writing Grade and Reviewing Accuracy Grades are generated.
7. For multiple drafts of the same assignment, how can I ensure the same students will be matched together in Peerceptiv (so students can see the revision in one another’s drafts)?

Peerceptiv has an option to “pair reviewers.” Select the “Assign all at once” option and then “Manage reviewers.”

In cases where the Assigned all-at-once Reviewing Style is selected, the instructor must assign reviewers after the submission deadline has passed. The instructor must also upload all late documents—students are unable to upload their own late documents in assignments using this reviewing style.

8. What are the best practices for setting deadlines on submissions, reviews, and back evaluations, considering some students will submit their papers late?

Peerceptiv typically recommends publishing the assignment at least 1 week before the submission deadline. We also recommend a reviewing window of 3-7 days and a brief back-evaluation period.

9. Can I set how many comment boxes appear?

Yes. The default setting is three comment boxes, but you can change it. The minimum is one box.

10. Why is the accuracy score zero if every student chooses a rating of 7?

Peerceptiv uses Spearman correlations to calculate accuracy scores, which have require a degree of variability in order to be calculated. Peerceptiv does address in FAQs that ratings of 7 should be rare, so rubrics should be designed to make a rating of 7 very difficult.

11. Why does a student get a zero on the helpfulness score even if they do not complete back evaluations? I.e., the student sends reviews but does not have time to back-evaluate others’ reviews.

A student will only receive a 0 Helpfulness score if they 1. Make no reviews on other students’ papers or 2. Receive no back-evaluation ratings from their peers.

12. In the back evaluation phase, do the authors of the original draft see the quantitative grades from the reviewers?

Authors only see an average of the peer ratings received on their documents. While they see all qualitative comments, they only see this mean data.

13. How do I access my students’ papers and their peer reviews so that I can assess them?

One way to access student reviews and documents is to access the Details button for that student on the Students page. The reviews provided on that student’s submission are presented on the left and the reviews the student performed on other documents are presented on the right.

If you are looking to batch view reviews and documents, please access the Downloads page. You can download a zip file of documents here, and you can download the ratings and comments downloads to view and filter reviews.

14. How do I see the average peer rating for a student’s paper?

You can see the average rating obtained by a student’s document by clicking the See Average Ratings on any student’s Details page. This information is also available for all students in a table under Data>Stats>Detailed Stats--see the Quantitative Data table at the bottom of the screen.
15. I looked at the students’ ratings, but see only a “?” instead of a number. What gives?

If there is a “?” showing for an average rating, it’s possible that the assignment Reviewing Deadline had not passed yet.

Creating Assignments

16. Can I create a draft in my assignment that is optional and does not figure into the student grade, or only factors in if the student chooses to do the extra draft?

You can create multiple drafts for an assignment, including an optional draft. I would recommend setting up an optional draft as a separate assignment in Peerceptiv (using a separate external learning tool link from Moodle). The reason for this being: for Peerceptiv assignments with multiple drafts, the Assignment Grade is calculated based on a weighted total of Draft Grades. As such, if a student fails to participate in one draft, she will be penalized on her Assignment Grade.

If you set up the optional draft as a separate Peerceptiv Assignment, you can set up the Moodle points possible as 0 and ensure students who fail to participate are not penalized.

17. Do I always need to use a 7-point rubric?

Yes, but you can make adjustments by only assigning values to some numbers on the rubric. For example, using a 4-point scale you would only assign values for numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7. To create such a 4-point scale, you would leave rating levels 2, 4, and 6 entirely blank.

For a 5-point scale, the best option is to use the values 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

18. How should I set dimensions for my assignment?

You will need one qualitative and at least one quantitative value for every dimension. You can use the Sword sample questions if desired by selecting “Copy to assignment.”

19. Will I need to manually close my assignments in Peerceptiv as I do in Moodle?

No, Peerceptiv will automatically close assignments after the deadline has passed.

20. How will I know if my assignment is set up correctly?

Peerceptiv will not publish incomplete assignments. You will receive an email indicating which elements your assignment is missing.

21. How can I ensure papers will be anonymous?

Emphasize to your students that they should not include their names on the papers they submit. Explain why anonymity is important in this activity (to eliminate bias and make reviewers feel more comfortable placing a numeric value on the writing of their peers). This protects students’ FERPA rights as well.

Technical Difficulties
22. How do I conduct a training assignment so that the whole peer review process can be completed in one class period?
You can use the “release deadline” button in the “draft” options to move the assignment along to a new stage for training purposes.

23. Will the QEP provide classroom assistance for Peerceptiv?
Yes, the QEP team can help facilitate a peer review training assignment for your class. You can also contact us if you have a question that is not answered by this list or Peerceptiv’s FAQ list: https://peerceptiv.zendesk.com/hc/en-us. Also, see Peerspectiv’s explanation of best practices for creating assignments: https://www.peerceptiv.com/best-practices/.

24. Which browser(s) can I use for Peerceptiv?
Moodle is most compatible with Firefox or Chrome, so those are recommended for Peerceptiv as well. Internet Explorer will block certain editing features in Moodle.

25. How do I make the “Go Live” date match the date I publish the assignment?
I believe this sounds like it will be a Moodle-side setting. You'll want to have the Peerceptiv assignment publish at exactly the same time or just before the Moodle publication date and time. That way, students never encounter a blank page in Peerceptiv due to the Peerceptiv assignment remaining unpublished.

26. How should I instruct students if they say their file did not upload?
Make sure students see the “Add File” line when they upload their document.

Students can save their documents as PDFs and upload these files. This is the most reliable type of file for upload.

Also, students can always reach out to their instructors or support@peerceptiv.com for help with upload. They’ll want to send a PDF version of their file for either instructor or Peerceptiv support upload.

27. Does Peerceptiv integrate with Turn it In?
Peerceptiv does not directly integrate with Turnitin, but you can export papers from Peerceptiv into a zip file and load the zip file to Turn It In.

To do so, access the Data>Downloads page and click the Assignment # - Documents button.

28. How does the Peerceptiv grading scale integrate with Moodle Gradebook?
Grades are passed over to the Moodle gradebook as a percentage and should be automatically calculated into the points possible value in Moodle. See this Moodle resource page for instructions on setting up your gradebook.

** If you are in need for further assistance please contact Jeff Shenton, QEP Director**