Using a Moodle workshop module to support peer assessment

Definition of peer assessment

- "Peer assessment is defined as an arrangement in which individuals consider the amount, level, value, worth, quality, or success of the products or outcomes of learning of peers of similar status." (Topping, 1998, p. 250)
- Learning by assessing

Why peer assessment?

- Increase student responsibility
- Deepen student understanding of the subject knowledge, skills and processes
- Promote active rather than passive learning
- Develop critical thinking

Application areas

Peer assessment of:

- writing
- oral presentation
- group work and projects
- professional skills (e.g. medicine, teaching, counseling, business)

Application areas

What is a workshop module?

"Workshop module is an advanced Moodle activity designed for peer assessments within a structured review/feedback/grading framework"

David Mudrak
Developer of Workshop 2.0
Source: http://docs.moodle.org/dev/Workshop_2.0_specification

Processes involved in peer assessment

For the assessor:

- Thinking
- Communicating
- Comparing
- Contrasting

Using the Moodle workshop module for formative assessment of students’ individual work in a first year introductory macroeconomics course of over 800 students at Rhodes University in South Africa.

Students submit the first version of their essays to TurnitinTM and a workshop activity

Students assess their peers’ essays and give feedback in the workshop activity

Students respond to their peers’ feedback before submitting the final version of their essays

Students submit the final version of their essays to TurnitinTM

Teacher will assess and mark the essays

The workshop module will automatically generate the grades for submission and assessment

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Finding #1

Finding #2

Overview of the workshop module

• Teachers can create a peer assessment task and specify its assessment criteria

• Students can submit their assignments / proposals / reports

• Teachers can allocate reviewers to each student submission

• Based on the assessment criteria designed by teachers, students can evaluate the submissions assigned to them

• Student grades are calculated automatically

• Teacher can review student submissions and override any student grades

• Grades are sent to the Moodle Gradebook

• Students can view their grades and peer feedback
How to setup a workshop module

Give a name to your workshop

Set your workshop feature

Select the maximum grades and grading strategy

Enter instructions for submission and assessment

Edit grading criteria in assessment form
- Click on the bulb icon to start the submission phase

- Assign reviewers for each student submission

- Click on the bulb icon to start peer review

- Click on the bulb icon to start grading evaluation

- Calculate the grades

- The grade for submission is the average mark given by all reviewers.
For example, the grade for the work submitted by S1 is \((30+60+60)/3 = 50\)

The grade for assessment of a student depends on how well the student assessed his/her peers.

It is measured by the consistency between the mark given by the student and the average mark for a particular submission.

For example, as S3 and S4’s assessments on S1’s work were close to the average, they both got a good grade for assessing S1’s work (40 out of 40)

However, S2’s assessment on S1’s work is far away from the average, so he got a lower grade (22 out of 40) for assessing S1’s work.

Click on the bulb icon under "Closed" to send the grades to the gradebook

Points to note

- Only one phase at a time
- Phases do not switch automatically
- Students can only view the assessment rubric in the assessment phase