Benefits for Staff

- Formative feedback can help to keep students motivated and improve the quality of student work

- It can encourage you to utilise new technologies (Discussion Boards, Blogs, Wikis, etc) that can make life easier in the long-run. For example a Wiki containing useful information, definitions and tips can be used by students on several courses and can be re-used and expanded every year

- Providing feedback can help you to identify the topics students are having the most difficulty with. This can help you to structure your future courses more effectively

- It allows for more transparent marking for students and external markers

Benefits for Students

- Clarifying expectations can help to focus student efforts in a more effective way

- Well-timed feedback can help students to improve their grades

- It can improve the Teacher-Student relationship and encourage students to engage with academic advisors

- Formative feedback can assist students in their personal development

- Feedback given in one area can apply to another so it can help a student in other subjects

- It can encourage student interaction (e.g. using discussion boards, online chat, etc)

focus on... Formative Feedback

group quick brief feedback
individual impersonal
peer-assessment formative feedback
expectations regular Good work
online quizzes
technology motivation
Study Skills turnitin discussion boards

Top Ten Hints and Tips

1 Define what formative feedback is and the forms it will take

2 Make your students aware of your expectations

3 Be positive in your feedback to improve student motivation

4 Provide examples of good work

5 Be aware of sources of support (e.g. Study Skills Website) and let the students know

6 Consider peer-assessment. Get students talking about their work as a group

7 Find out how technology can help (e.g. Discussion boards, Online quizzes, Turnitin)

8 Keep it individual. It's about their work, not someone else's

9 Keep it about skill, not personality

10 Regular, brief feedback is better than too much at once

About Formative Feedback

- Formative feedback is information communicated to a student that is intended to modify a student's thinking or behavior for the purpose of improving learning

- Make it clear to students what you are expecting from them in each assignment and on what criteria the work will be judged

- Formative feedback is best provided 'little and often' at timely intervals throughout a course

- Well-timed feedback can help students to improve with each assignment. It's not all about pointing out what has been done badly

- Providing examples of good quality work can work just as well as pointing out what is incorrect

- It is important to be aware what sources of support are available for students (e.g. The Study Skills website) and to pass those resources onto them

- Keep the feedback relevant to an individual's work - the focus should be on improving the student skills

- Try to stay positive when giving feedback to so you continue to motivate students

- Consider using peer-assessment

- Get the students talking about their work: what they found useful or difficult or how they solved particular problems with their research

Faculty of Humanities

Study Skills

www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/studyskills/