

# FOCUSING YOUR FEEDBACK IN FASER

FASER aims to improve the interaction between students and staff, so that staff can tailor the feedback given to each individual student and therefore improve its usefulness.

Part of this improved interaction has been to develop a means for students to highlight areas they feel less confident in, so that staff can focus on these areas when writing feedback. This ensures that the feedback is in direct response to the student's requirements, and prevents the feedback from being viewed as generic or unhelpful.

This interaction has taken the form of a reflective question that staff can define for each assignment. Where a reflective question is set, it is shown to students within FASER and they are asked to respond. These responses are shown to staff within FASER's feedback assistant.

Example reflective questions include:

- Are there any areas of the assignment that you did not understand?
- Are there any areas that you would like the feedback to focus on?
- Are there any areas that you particularly enjoyed or disliked?
- If you were marking this work, what comments would you make?
- What problems did you encounter whilst working on this assignment?

It is not designed to be an additional formative or summative question (eg. What are the benefits of C++ over Java?). Nor is it designed for students to provide information about their submission (eg. This assignment is late because my laptop broke). Please bear this in mind when defining a question and try to avoid asking questions where students are unsure how to answer.



## Adding a question to an assignment

Once you know what question you want to ask, it can be added to FASER via the *Edit Assignment* screen in the Administrative area. This area is usually available to administrative staff in the department.

To add the question, simply tick the *Allow accompanying notes to be submitted* tick box, and type or paste the question in to the *Custom message prompt* box. Once you are happy with this, click on the *Save* button at the bottom of the page.

This will add the question to the assignment and it will automatically appear to students.

## How do students respond?

If defined, the question is presented to students when they submit work to FASER.

Students have the option of typing a response which they can modify up until the submission deadline.

**Submission details**

No submission required

Requires online submission  
Online submission deadline: \* 04/03/2016 Time: 10 ▾

Allow accompanying notes to be submitted  
Custom message prompt:

File ▾ Edit ▾ View ▾ Format ▾

Thinking about your submission, which parts of it did you find difficult?

Requires hardcopy submission (this will be watermarked if there is already one)

Hardcopy submission deadline: \* Time: 12

Notification e-mails:  ADD > ugadmin@essex.ac.uk

Enter the username only (no @essex.ac.uk) and select the user from the dropdown list.

Submit file

Thinking about your submission, which parts of it did you find difficult

### Notes

File ▾ Edit ▾ View ▾ Format ▾

Thinking about your submission, which parts of it did you find difficult

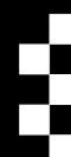
### Notes

I found the second question about integrating x to be quite hard.

p

[Cancel](#) [Update](#)

### Final submission files



University of Essex

## Viewing responses when giving feedback

Staff can view student responses when adding feedback via the Feedback Assistant.

You can view student's responses to the question when adding new items of feedback. Either tick the tick box next to the student's name and then click **ADD FEEDBACK TO SELECTED 1 STUDENT**, or click on the *annotation highlighter* next to the student's submission. When the feedback window appears, the student's comments will appear under the *Notes* tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Feedback Assistant' window. At the top, there are tabs for 'Student' and 'Class / Group'. Below the tabs, a search bar says 'Give feedback to [REDACTED]'. On the left, a sidebar lists student names with checkboxes: '150' (unchecked), '150' (checked), and '150' (unchecked). In the center, four buttons are shown: 'Text Feedback' (selected), 'File Feedback', 'Audio Feedback', and 'Submissions 1'. To the right of these buttons is a 'Notes' tab. Below the buttons, a message reads: 'The student uploaded the following notes when submitting their coursework:'. Underneath this message, it says 'Date: 15-Mar-2016 01:51' and shows a note: 'I found the second question about integrating x to be quite hard.' At the bottom right of the central area are 'Save Feedback' and 'Cancel' buttons. At the very bottom of the window is a button labeled 'ADD FEEDBACK TO SELECTED 1 STUDENT'.

