

Activity ➔ 47

Engaging with lecturers and tutors

STUDENT HANDOUT

A student has paid £9,000 for her course and expects to pass and get a good degree. She fails her first assignment. What should she do?

- Visit the students' union to find out how to make an official complaint.
- Demand to see her tutor to argue for a mark increase.
- Vow to work harder on the next assignment.
- Seek and receive constructive feedback about how to improve her work.
- Google essay mills.
- Read up on how to produce better assignments.

A lecturer has received his mid-term student feedback. One student has written 'he dresses really badly, has smelly breath and is rubbish at his job'. What should he do?

- Take the student aside and tell him that the comments are offensive.
- Decide to mark the student down on his next assignment.
- Run a short session on how students can provide constructive feedback.
- Buy some mouthwash and new clothes and try to improve his teaching.
- Throw the comments in the bin and never think about them again.
- Become self-conscious, a little depressed and wonder whether he is in the right job.

An international student excelled in an education system where it was socially unacceptable to question elders, experts and doctrines. Rote learning and tutor-led sessions were the norm. The student is having difficulty adjusting to self-directed learning and critical analysis. What can be done?

- Her personal tutor should take action and recommend specific courses and training sessions.
- The student should take action and find out about specific courses and training sessions.
- The tutor and student should meet to discuss worries, concerns and ways forward.
- The student should seek out students from her country for mutual support.
- The tutor or student should do nothing, as the student will adjust naturally.
- The tutor should offer practical guidance about course requirements to all students.

A student comes to see his personal tutor and bursts into tears. What should his tutor do?

- Give him a tissue and tell him to pull himself together.
- Put his arm around him and comfort him the best he can.
- Try to find out the cause of the tears.
- Tell him to go to the student counselling service.
- Tell the student to come back when he's feeling better and they can get on with some work.
- Call in a female tutor who he thinks is much better at dealing with this sort of thing.

A student is panicking about her latest assignment. She wants to meet her tutor in the hope that he will give her some clues about what to include in the assignment. What should the tutor do?

- Find out the purpose of the meeting before agreeing to meet.
- Meet the student and provide a list of information that should be included in the assignment.
- Email the student, tell her to stop panicking and instruct her to find the information herself.
- Meet with the student, prompting, probing and encouraging her to find solutions to the problem at hand.
- Produce a Student Handout that provides more detailed information about the assignment and give it to all students.

A tutor has a reputation for being abrupt and concise with feedback. One of his students doesn't understand the comments that have been given on a recent assignment. What should the student do?

- Ask a friend if they can work out what the comments mean.
- Email the tutor for clarification.
- Post derogatory comments online about the tutor's use-less style.
- Forget about trying to work out what the comments mean and move on the next assignment.
- Ask to meet with the tutor to discuss the comments.
- Drop the course so he does not have to deal with this tutor again.

A student notices that one of her tutors who she thinks is rather nice has turned up at a party. What should she do?

- Introduce herself and get to know him better.
- Leave him well alone. He is, after all, her tutor.
- Get drunk and make a pass at him.
- Don't make any plans: just see how the night progresses.
- Approach him and say she is having difficulty with the course or latest assignment.
- Have a brief chat, acknowledging that they are student and tutor.

A lecturer notices that a student has not been turning up to lectures. What should she do?

- Ignore the problem: she has too many courses to teach and too much work to spend time chasing up one student.
- Email the student to ask why he has not been attending.
- Find out if he has been missing any other lectures.
- Arrange a meeting to discuss why he has not been attending.
- Recommend that he be sent a warning about attendance.
- Ask some of his friends if they know why he has not been attending.

A student has received a poor mark and some very negative comments on an assignment that he worked hard to complete. He is extremely despondent. What should he do?

- Try to turn negative feedback into something positive so that he can learn from the feedback.
- Discuss the issues with his tutor, explaining how hard he worked and why he is feeling so despondent.
- Become active in the feedback process: seek other views and look to other sources of feedback.
- Don't bother working so hard: what's the point?
- Leave his course and get a job: he won't be in so much debt and perhaps university is not for him.
- Work with the tutor to illustrate that negative criticism is not constructive and does not help students to learn.

A tutor learns that one of his students has mental health issues through reading comments on her Facebook page. He is worried about her. The mental health issues have not been disclosed to him by the student. What should he do?

- Ignore the mental health issues unless the student discloses them to him.
- Arrange a meeting to discuss the mental health issues and provide information about support services at university.
- Speak to a university counsellor to find out what he should do.
- Join her Facebook group and try to address the issues subtly online.
- Ask her friends to keep an eye on her.
- Contact her parents.

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