Giving and Receiving Feedback

Giving Feedback to Peers

Feedback needs to be specific and actionable, which means it needs to be connected to science ideas, and it should provide your suggestions for improvement.

This table outlines productive examples and contrasts them with less productive examples:

Examples of type of feedback	More feedback like this …	Less feedback like this …
Suggestions related to evidence	"You said that the drum moves when it makes sound but the table doesn't move when it makes sound. We disagree and suggest reviewing the observation data from the laser investigation."	"I think you should use more evidence." "I agree with the evidence you used."
Use of science ideas	"You said that only some objects move when they make sound. I disagree with that reasoning because I think that all objects move when they make sound."	"I agree with everything you said." "I don't think what you said is correct."
Completeness/level of detail	"Your model shows that the sound source changes position when it is hit. I think you should add detail about how the sound source moves back and forth after it is hit."	"Next time use more detail." "Your response is very complete and I like how it is written."
Clearness of communication	"I think the gist of your explanation makes sense and I would like to see it written more clearly, for example, try writing your claim and then the relevant evidence directly after it. Make sure to say why the evidence supports the claim."	"It is very clear." "I didn't understand what you said."

Receiving Feedback from Peers

The purpose of receiving feedback from peers is to get ideas about what you can improve or change to make your work more clear and accurate and/or to get ideas for how to revise your work to better use evidence and science ideas you have from the unit. Peer feedback might also help you communicate your ideas more effectively to your target audience because you have a chance to see where people understood what you said and where they were confused.

Every time you receive feedback from a peer, make sure you do each of the following:

• Be open to feedback; the goal of feedback is to make improvements.

• Review the feedback carefully and ask questions if you need help understanding the feedback.

• Review the actionable feedback by asking yourself:

  • Is the feedback specific and relevant to the task?
  • What suggestions are there for improvement?
  • Do I agree or disagree with the feedback? Why?

• Use the peer feedback suggestions to help you revise your work. Say why you made the revisions you made.