PeerMark for Peer Review

PeerMark™ is a peer review assignment tool. Instructors can create and manage PeerMark assignments that allow students to read, review, and evaluate one or many papers submitted by their classmates. PeerMark is part of Turnitin, which is accessible from within Blackboard Learn.

Why Peer Review?
- Allows students to become more conscious of their own writing.
- Requires students to review what they are writing and identify what does not come across clearly.
- Reviewers tell writers what they understand from what they read.
- Teaches students to be critical readers.
- Process of explaining ideas to others helps clarify ideas.

What is a PeerMark Assignment?
Instructors guide peer review by creating questions for students to answer on the papers they are reviewing. The questions can be created or selected and/or modified from a library of questions. Two types of review questions can be created by instructors;
- "free response" with minimum word requirements
- or "scale responses" with ratings (ex. 1-5)

PeerMark Review Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>peer review dates</th>
<th>start</th>
<th>due</th>
<th>feedback released</th>
<th>post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>base assignment dates</td>
<td>start</td>
<td>due</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- A Turnitin assignment is set up prior to a PeerMark assignment. PeerMark assignments are based on existing Turnitin (base) assignments.
- The due date of the Turnitin assignment is set to a date prior to the start, due and feedback release dates of the PeerMark assignment.
- Feedback can be released manually or automatically.

PeerMark Overview

Instructor sets up PeerMark Assignment

Students review work of their peers

Instructor assigns (or auto assigns) points for the PeerMark Assignment.

Instructions for Students

Include the following in your instructions to students:
- Papers should be double spaced to allow room for feedback
- Do not include name or personally identifiable information (especially for anonymous reviewing.)
- Ask students to add comments to a paper in addition to answering the review questions.

Student Tips for Providing Feedback

- Encourage students to provide constructive feedback.
- Be honest about what they like or what confuses them.
- Avoid "should" statements and use "I" statements instead, such as "I am confused about this..." or "I'd like to hear more about..."

PeerMark Options

With the advanced options in PeerMark, instructors can:
- indicate how many papers each student is to review,
- add self-review,
- select anonymous or attributed reviews,
- pair students to assign students specific papers to review,
- decide if students should be excluded from reviews (ex. if they didn't complete the base assignment.)

PeerMark Grading

- Instructors assign or auto assign points for a PeerMark Assignment after the PeerMark due date has passed.
- Students can view PeerMark grades within PeerMark tool only. PeerMark grades do not carry over to "My Grades."

PeerMark Best Practices

- Consider including face-to-face work or use Collaborate breakout rooms for online courses, for the first review in class, next time use PeerMark
- Assign a grade to motivate students to complete PeerMark assignments.
- Provide more than one PeerMark assignment.
- Combine several short answer and long answer questions.
- Save questions to your "library" for future use.
- Recommended: Create a manual grade column in grade center to assign points for all PeerMark assignments.
- Establish consistent PeerMark assignment due date schedule. PeerMark assignments cannot be completed after the due date passes.

Support for PeerMark

- How to website: howto.wikispaces.umb.edu/Turnitin
- Questions? Contact us at elearning@umb.edu.