



# Self and Peer Assessment

## What is the issue?

To learn effectively in university and beyond you need to be equipped to engage in self-assessment, so that you can routinely make reliable evaluative judgments, (Tai et al., 2018), about what you know and can do, and what you do not yet know and can't yet do. In university you may engage in activities that help you to develop the ability to become a realistic judge of your own and others' performance.



## Unpacking evaluative judgment

Evaluative judgement is the process of making judgments by understanding criteria and learning to apply them actively. Evaluative judgment includes being able to process a variety of information (feedback from a variety of sources), which has a bearing on the tasks you are doing, and being able to act on the feedback. It involves making decisions about work against articulately criteria. It also involves generating feedback and engaging in reflection (Sambell et al., 2013).



# How can you improve your evaluative judgment?

There are a few ways that you can develop your evaluative judgment. These include:

- ✓ Familiarising yourself with the criteria against which your work will be judged. If you don't understand the criteria, ask for an explanation of them.
- ✓ Discussing assignments with peers and with your lecturers.
- ✓ Self-assessing your work against the assignment criteria, marking rubrics or feedback templates.
- ✓ Comparing your work with exemplars.
- ✓ Using relevant feedback on previous assignments, or feedbacks on drafts of your assignment, to improve your work.





## About this resource

As part of the Maynooth University Assess for Success initiative international experts Kay Sambell and Sally Brown developed staff guides on a number of topics in which Maynooth University colleagues expressed particular interest. Inspired by the staff guides, we worked with Kay and Sally to develop student guides on the same topics. All five guides can be accessed in Maynooth University's Assessment and Feedback Hub.

## References:

Sambell, K., McDowell, L., and Montgomery, C. (2013) *Assessment for learning in higher education*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Tai, J., Ajjawi, R., Boud, D., Dawson, P. and Panadero, E. (2018) 'Developing evaluative judgement: enabling students to make decisions about the quality of work', *Higher Education*, 76(3), pp.467-481, DOI:10.1007/s10734-017-0220-3



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