

Comments to Students for Peer Grading Practice

General:

How am I supposed to get the information out of ELMS?

In the future, try typing your comments in an email or word doc and then copy-pasting them into ELMS--this way you will have a copy of what you have done.

But I know I did it and I can't see it anymore!

The submission will disappear on ELMS as soon as you submit it, but the content should still exist in the ELMS system.

You needn't worry, so long as you have submitted it once and sent a copy of your score/comments to both your TA and me. If you do these things, you are covered no matter what ELMS does.

How do I find the peer grading after I am done?

I can see through ELMS that you did the peer review. My previous email to you was mainly to make sure you understand the procedure. The trouble is that ELMS does not always work (it fails about 1% of the time) and, since the rubric goes blank once you submit it, you have no way of knowing if ELMS has failed--and, if it fails, TAs have no way of knowing that you tried. Even if ELMS fails, we still want you to get credit for your work and want the students whose work you have examined to benefit from your critique. That is why we ask you to send your scores and comments to your TA and to me *in addition to* putting this information directly into ELMS.

How should I have known to email TAs?

The information detailing what you are to do for each peer grading can be found here:
<http://umdberg.pbworks.com/w/page/104960634/Peer%20Review%20and%20Peer%20Grading%20for%20Phys%20132> . This was part of the pre-lab reading for the week of Feb. 8th--and the "emailing a copy" is mentioned twice, once in bolded text. Additionally, this information has been in several ELMS announcements--two in the past seven days (2/16 & 2/20) and another one prior to that (2/13). So it is reasonable that we would expect you to send a copy of your peer grading to both me and to your TA. Nevertheless, this is why we practice.

If grading on 'style'....

I see from your comments that the use of personal pronouns is something you think scientists universally avoid. That is not actually the case. In fact, many branches of science (and the journals that represent them) are making a shift to greater use of personal pronouns and active voice in the articles they publish. Please be aware of this trend and do not deduct 'style' points, except when the style of the writing detracts from the clarity and completeness of the scientific arguments expressed.

I am not an expert. I am not comfortable doing this!

I get that you don't feel competent to grade in a subject you are not an expert in yet, but that is why: 1) we practice (as you have done on this report), 2) rubrics are provided (as I see you have used on this report), and 3) you are not the only person doing the grading (for this or for future reports). If you are interested in becoming a scientist, you will need the skills of peer review, and peer grading can help you learn some of those skills. Learning new things can sometimes be challenging and unsettling, but I have faith that you will persevere.

Don't worry too much. You will get better at this as you go on. And, as I said, you get full credit for your Lab 6 practice of peer grading. This is part of why we *practice* first!

Insufficient comments.... (Some deductions unexplained, -1pt.; No comments at all, -2 pts.)

While you got very close to the score assigned by the TA, the comments you left in the rubric were insufficient. For example, there were two categories in which you deducted points but left no explanation as to why. This will not make your assessment very helpful to the group that wrote this report. Peer review (and peer grading) is partly about constructive criticism that helps people re-examine what they have done and do better work in the future.

Work is late, but within the grace period....

The deadline was 12:00pm, so this work is late. In recognition that doing this is tricky and can be unexpectedly time-consuming the first time you try it, we are accepting as "on time" reports until 1:30pm. So, you are lucky and there is no late penalty this time. Be warned, the deadline will not be so flexible in future weeks!

Work is late.... (If same day, -1 pt.; If more than 12 hours late, -2 pts.)

This review was due at 12pm and you missed that deadline by many [many, many] hours. This reduces your "timeliness" score by 1 point [2 points]. You do get full points for your thorough critique (2 pts.). So you will have a total of 3 pts. [2 pts.] added on to your own Lab 6 score.

FEEDBACK on Peer Grading Score: Here is your feedback for your peer grading practice....

If too harsh in practice (student score much (4+ pts.) lower than TA score):

Thanks for sending this. :-)

You gave this report a score of __. The TA grading this same report gave it a score of __. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

With that in mind, please try to be a more generous/forgiving in your other peer reviews. (But you still get full credit for your review of Lab 6!)

As the semester continues, please send me and your TA your other scores/comments when you have finished your future peer grading.

Cheers!

If only a little harsh in practice (student score a little (2-4 pts.) lower than TA score):

Thanks for sending this. :-)

You gave this report a score of __. The TA grading this same report gave it a score of __. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

With that in mind, please try to be a *little* more generous/forgiving in your other peer reviews. (But you still get full credit for your review of Lab 6!)

As the semester continues, please send me and your TA your other scores/comments when you have finished your future peer grading.

Cheers!

If student score within +/- 1.5 points of TA score: no comment needed.

Thanks for sending this. :-)

You gave this report a score of __. The TA grading this same report gave it a score of __. Good job!

As the semester continues, please send me and your TA your other scores/comments when you have finished your future peer grading.

Cheers!

If only a little lenient in practice (student score a little (2-4 pts.) higher than TA score):

Thanks for sending this. :-)

You gave this report a score of __. The TA grading this same report gave it a score of __. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

With that in mind, please try to be a *little* more strict and a *little* more critical in your other peer reviews. (But you still get full credit for your review of Lab 6!)

As the semester continues, please send me and your TA your other

scores/comments when you have finished your future peer grading.

Cheers!

If too lenient in practice (student score much (4+ pts.) higher than TA score):

Thanks for sending this. :-)

You gave this report a score of ___. The TA grading this same report gave it a score of ___. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

With that in mind, please try to be more strict and more critical in your other peer reviews. (But you still get full credit for your review of Lab 6!)

As the semester continues, please send me and your TA your other scores/comments when you have finished your future peer grading.

Cheers!

Failure to communicate email:

Lab 6 Peer Grading Feedback....

Hello!

Your Lab 6 peer grading was due today at 12pm. Neither your TA nor I have received an email from you with your peer grading score and comments. You have been instructed multiple times to send such an email. We ask you to do this for each report you peer grade so that, in the event of a malfunction of ELMS, you get full credit for your work without having to do your work over again from scratch.

Please contact your TA and me (Kim Moore, Phys 132 Lead TA, kmoore17@umd.edu) so that we can provide feedback to you regarding your practice peer grading for Lab 6.

Cheers!

Kim Moore

Phys 131/132 Lead TA

Email to a particularly persistent, discontent student:

The information detailing what you are to do for each peer grading can be found here:

<http://umdb.org.pbworks.com/w/page/104960634/Peer%20Review%20and%20Peer%20Grading%20for%20Phys%20132> . This was part of the pre-lab reading for the week of Feb. 8th--and the "emailing a copy" is mentioned twice, once in bolded text. Additionally, this information has been in several ELMS announcements--two in the past seven days (2/16 & 2/20) and another one prior to that (2/13). So it is reasonable that we would expect you to send a copy of your peer grading to both me and to your TA. Nevertheless, this is why we practice.

Finding the peer review once it has been submitted/completed can be tricky. Students from previous semesters have told me that they could re-follow the link in the original ELMS message they got for the peer review. But I think ELMS may only issue a message with a link when an official "reminder" is sent. So students who do the report promptly (like you, yay you!) never get a reminder email and thus may not get a link. The TA end of the ELMS system is completely different from the student end, so I have no way of checking this myself.

As for the request to send emails AND do the ELMS submission, we have a very good reason for that. (As we have very good reasons for other things we do!) The trouble is that ELMS does not always work (it fails about 1% of the time) and, since the rubric goes blank once you submit it, you have no way of knowing if ELMS has failed--and, if it fails, TAs have no way of knowing that you tried. Even if ELMS fails, we still want you to get credit for your work and want the students whose work you have examined to benefit from your critique. That is why we ask you to send your scores and comments to your TA and to me in addition to putting this information directly into ELMS.

My previous email to you was to make sure you understand the procedure. I could see via ELMS that you had done your work, but I never got a message from you showing that you understood the entire procedure. Do you understand now? I want to make sure you always get full credit for your work and never end up having to do the work twice! In the future, try typing your comments in an email or word doc and then copy-pasting them into ELMS--this way you will have a copy of what you have done.

Now for your peer grading feedback....

ELMS Announcement to ALL students, upon release of Lab 6 scores....

Lab 6 report scores and feedback, Preparing for the Lab 7 report...

Greetings!

I am releasing the Lab 6 report scores in ELMS. This will enable you to see the feedback your TA and your peers have given you. (If the rubric you see on ELMS is anonymous, it is from your peers!) Since this was a peer grading practice, the score you receive for your group's Lab 6 report is based solely on what your TA gives to you (not what your peers put in the rubrics). Each of you was evaluated by a different one of your peers, so you all have unique feedback for your shared Lab 6 report that only you can see. Please do look over the comments that your peers have given you and share these comments with your fellow group members--this will help you improve your work for the Lab 7 report that you will write this week in lab.

Your individual Lab 6 score is: (What your TA gave your group's report) + (Your peer grading "timeliness" score, up to 2 points) + (Your peer grading "critical but fair" score, up to 2 points). This has a maximum total of 30 points. **I have already updated this score** to reflect the points you earned for your peer grading practice, except for the scores of those students who still have not emailed me (check your email/ELMS messages and respond!).

In preparation for the end of Lab 7, please make sure you have **all of your videos tracked in ImageJ before coming to your lab section this week**.

Getting the video tracking analysis complete and starting the Excel analysis before you arrive in lab will enable you to complete the work of this lab in the two classroom hours you have left. Once your Lab 7 report is turned in (don't forget to sign up with your group-mates for a Lab 7 group for your section!), your TA will assign a peer grading report to you and inform you of the deadline for completing the peer grading of Lab 7.

You will be in room 3310 for recitation and lab this week (the room with the microscopes). Next week (the week of March 7th), you will change to room 3312 for the remainder of the labs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers!

Kim Moore, Phys 131/132 Lead TA