

## Identifying Pearls of Wisdom from End of Term Course Evaluation

Yes, response rate from end of the term course evaluation could be low and anonymous comments could be dreadful. However, many students do put in some careful thoughts when filling out the course evaluation while staying up late studying for exams. Here are some steps we can take to sort out the pearls of wisdom that we can use to improve our teaching:

1. Spend a few minutes and think about:
  - a. What went well, for both the students and you, as intended? How?
  - b. What went negatively, for both the students and you? How?
  - c. What would you like to change next time around? Why?
2. Ask for individual feedback: many institutes put the feedback together as a summary and much of the rich context is lost. Ask for anonymous individual feedback if possible to get the full context behind each comment.
3. Dreadful feedback: read, ponder and put aside.
4. Pearls of Wisdom:
  - a. Look for strengths and areas of improvements
  - b. Categorize them
  - c. Match them against the list you developed in Step #1
5. Develop an action plan:
  - a. List the strengths you are going to maintain
  - b. List one or two things you will adjust/change/modify
6. Work with a couple colleagues: it is best to do all of the above with a couple colleagues.

### Resources:

Using Course Evaluations to Improve Teaching and Learning:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/planning-courses/course-design/using-course-evaluations-improve-teaching-learning>

Making Student Evaluations an Effective Source of Information: Research-based Advice

<http://teacheval.ubc.ca/resources/for-faculty-members/>

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