



Trinity

ED-TECH ENHANCED EDUCATOR

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

ISSUES #04

Navigating Education with Technology |



ENCOURAGE COURSE FEEDBACK WITH SMARTEVALS

SmartEvals is a valuable platform that helps faculty gather meaningful feedback from students and make informed decisions to enhance teaching and learning. Encouraging students to complete their course evaluations is essential for gaining insights into what's working well and where improvements can be made. To boost participation, consider posting reminders in your Moodle course, making brief announcements during class, and explaining how student feedback directly contributes to course improvements. Higher response rates lead to more accurate and actionable data, ultimately benefiting both instructors and students. You can also visit [SmartEvals.com](https://smartevals.com) to view past evaluation results, access helpful resources, and learn more about using the platform effectively.

By reviewing and reflecting on SmartEvals feedback, faculty can identify patterns, celebrate teaching strengths, and address areas for growth. Over time, this practice can lead to more engaging course experiences, improved student satisfaction, and ongoing professional development. Whether you're just getting started or looking to deepen your use of SmartEvals, taking the time to engage with this tool is a proactive step toward teaching excellence.

Sign up for our Encourage Students Voices: Boosting Course Evaluations with SmartEvals Workshop!



Moodle Mentor



EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS

Looking for a simple way to motivate students and encourage deeper learning? Consider adding an extra credit assignment in Moodle! Extra credit is a great tool to reward students for going above and beyond while giving them an opportunity to improve their grade. Whether it's a reflection, bonus quiz, or optional project, these assignments can increase student engagement and participation. Access [How do I add an extra credit item to the gradebook](#) on our [website](#).



WORKSHOPS FOR FACULTY

Encouraging Student Voices: Boosting Course evaluations with SmartEvals
April 10, 2025

To register, access the Moodle Support Ed-Tech Bulletin Board page or see the Moodle Homepage. Registering early ensures email reminders from Zoom.

Helpful SmartEval links

- [Boosting Course Evaluation Response Rates](#)
- [Overview for New Instructors](#)
- [Viewing Survey Results](#)
- [SmartEvals Help Guide](#)

COURSE DESIGN MATTERS: THE ID CORNER

Is Your Class Time Used for Active or Passive Learning?

Passive learning: students receive information presented to them (traditional lecture).

Active learning: students are engaged to take ownership of their learning by participating in a variety of activities (labs, case studies, group discussions, ect.).

There is a common misconception for anyone entering higher education: the traditional idea that while in class instructors lecture followed by students doing their active work on their own time. [Studies over the last 2 decades](#) demonstrate active learning within the classroom results in deeper learning for students. The reasons are clear: when instructors take class time to facilitate learning activities they can observe student understanding while providing students space to deepen their understanding from each other. But where to begin?

1. Self Assess: How do you spend your class time?

$$\frac{\text{Time conveying information to students}}{\text{total class time}} \times 100 = \% \text{ class lecturing}$$

2. Gather Ideas:

- a. We have a [short presentation on how to begin changing your course format to incorporate more active learning experiences](#).
- b. Message [Moodle Support](#), we'd love to help.
- c. [IU's Active Learning Page](#) with included studies related to area of study and activity ideas.
- d. Trinity's [Teaching and Learning with Technology Resources](#) (check back for updates throughout the year)

3. Start small, try one activity.

4. Build on successes and student feedback!