Session 1: Feedback on Student Writing

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This presentation will introduce college instructors and high school teachers of psychology to technology that provides instant feedback on student writing. For students, traditional methods of submitting an essay can seem as if they are placing their work in a black hole where they do not know how their work is assessed nor when they will receive feedback. Moreover, when written work is assessed and returned, often students do not have the ability to learn from their instructor's feedback. For teachers, traditional methods of receiving essays often demand an almost untenable time commitment. Aside from the time required to read each essay, there are accuracy concerns with the traditional method. After a span of time, an instructor might assess student writing differently than he did at the beginning of the reading period. Similarly if an instructor reads student essays over several reading periods, there are questions of assessment validity. Recent software and websites allow for much of the preliminary work of correcting students' errors in essays to be done automatically. As soon as a student submits his work, he receives feedback. He can then use such feedback to improve his writing and learn from his mistakes.