

# Feedback Basics



FEEDBACK  
FOCUS

## What is effective feedback?

Effective feedback is an essential component of the learning process. More than information that teachers *give* students about their work, effective feedback is part of an iterative and responsive process where students both learn and develop skills and mindsets. As partners in the feedback process, they enter the learning process more deeply: they reflect, evaluate their work, understanding, and skills, communicate with peers and teachers, and practice a growth mindset. Explore more with our [Feedback Fundamentals](#) Grab-and-Go Session.

## Characteristics of effective feedback

The nature of feedback provided to students greatly influences how effective it is at helping students learn and move forward. Effective feedback is:

- specific
- focused on improvement
- encourages self-assessment
- encourages a growth mindset
- actionable
- timely

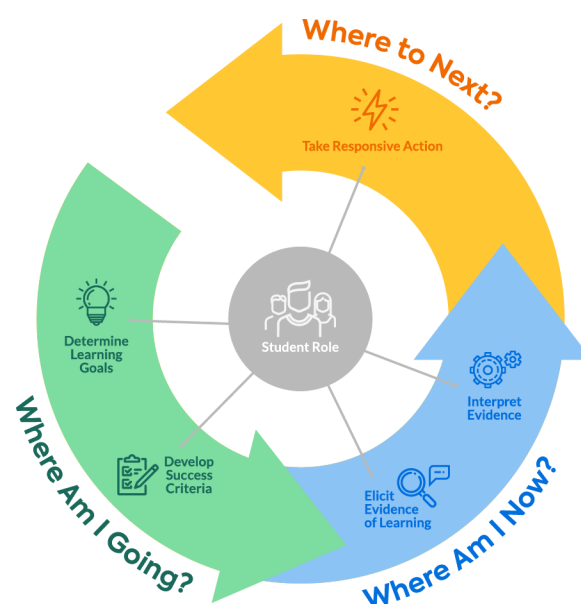
What does effective feedback look and sound like? Take a closer look with our “Better Feedback” activities for [Math](#), [Science](#), [Social Science](#) and [English](#).

## What is the feedback cycle?

The feedback cycle helps students to understand where they are going, where they are, and where they need to go, so they can take responsive action. Students should ask and answer three questions as they work towards a learning or skill goal:

1. Where am I going?
2. Where am I now?
3. Where to next? (and, how will I get there?)

During feedback cycles, teachers and students work together to set goals, elicit evidence of progress and interpret that evidence, so students can take responsive action and move forward.



## What does the feedback cycle look like in a classroom?



# How can students become active participants in the feedback cycle?

Students learn best when they are [active participants in the feedback cycle](#). When students act as partners in this way, they...

1. take ownership of their learning goals, (Where am I going?)
2. self-assess the progress they are making, (Where am I now?)
3. and identify the steps they need to take to move forward. (Where to next?)

The following strategies can help you engage students as active participants in the feedback cycle:

- Help students evaluate their mindsets and develop a [growth mindset](#)
- [Co-create success criteria](#) with students
- Co-create rubrics with student input
- Use exemplars to demonstrate to students what mastery looks like
- Allow opportunities for self-assessment and [self-reflection](#)
- Build in opportunities for students to [give and receive peer feedback](#)

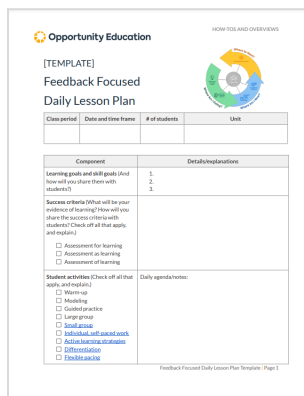
## Planning for effective feedback routines

Effective lesson planning begins with backwards design, whether you are planning a single project or an entire unit. Oftentimes, planning is focused on instructional methods. Feedback is sometimes left out of this planning process. **However, planning for the entire feedback loop is just as important as planning individual activities or projects. Feedback for and as learning (formative feedback) is, in its own right, a learning experience.**

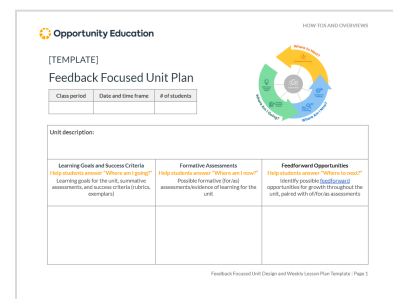
Prioritizing feedback means actively planning for it. The following resources can help you plan for effective feedback:



Of/For/As Learning [Infographic](#)



[Feedback Focused](#)



[Feedback Focused](#)

[Daily Lesson Plan Template](#)

[Unit Plan Template](#)