

Peer Grading Tool Advances Students' Writing Skills

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The Good News

Employers intend to increase or hold steady their hiring of new college graduates

- 50% will be hybrid
- 12% will be fully remote
- 38% will be in person

We
Know

Growing reliance on digital communication channels

- Writing tops skills needed in a remote and hybrid working world
- Employees need to proofread and take pride in clarity and format of written business messages

The Bad News

Employers Rate:	
Importance of communication skills	96%
Communication skill proficiency level of recent college graduates	47%

Role of the Business Educator

- Improve students' writing skills
- Heighten graduates' employability and graduate school preparedness
- in particular, where communication occurs asynchronously

Effective Business Communication Course

“The ability to communicate effectively is ranked as one of the most important skills needed by employers.”

The crux of the course is to develop and reinforce, through significant practical application, students' written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills necessary in a diverse and technological culture.

What
I
Have
Seen

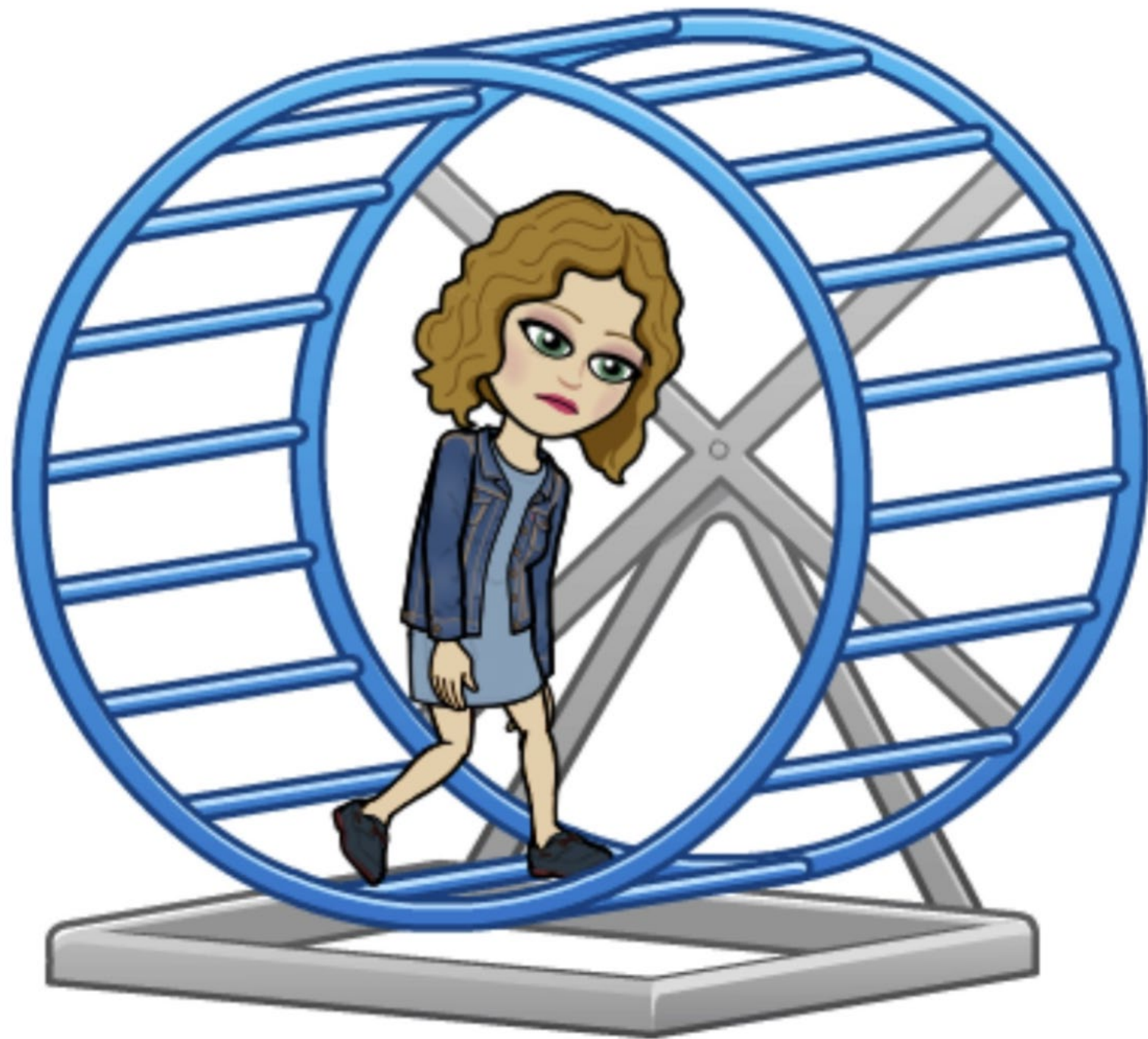
Moderate to Severe Writing Issues

- Run-on and fragmented sentences
- Spelling errors and misused words
- Unorganized content and lack of clarity
- Noun and verb disagreement
- Inaccurate comma, colon, and semicolon usage
- Lack of parallel language
- Ambiguous terms
- Wordiness
- Unprofessional presentation (formatting)



What I Have Done

1. Provided detailed feedback
2. Met with students
3. Mandated tutoring
4. Taught fundamental writing rules
 - punctuation, grammar, commonly misspelled and confused words, and clarity and conciseness
5. Assigned worksheets applying grammar and writing
6. Required reflective assignments
7. Provided students with a checklist for their editing phase



DESPITE What I Did

1. Providing detailed feedback
2. Meeting with students
3. Mandating tutoring
4. Teaching fundamental writing rules
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5. Assigning worksheets applying grammar and writing mechanics
6. Requiring reflective assignments
7. Providing students with a checklist for their editing phase

**Students repeatedly made
identical writing mistakes
on writing assignment
after writing assignment**





Peer Feedback

Formative assessment method

Effective when:

- Instructor and peer feedback are used in tandem.
- The feedback is goal-related, just-in-time, and ongoing.

(Han & Xu, 2020; Wiggins, 2012; Zhang & Hyland, 2022)

Students Benefit

When the feedback process includes calibration of peer and instructor assessments

The instructor guides the students through sense-making of the feedback.

When students appreciate peer feedback and make judgments about the feedback.

Peer Feedback App Kritik

- **Create:** Write and upload
- **Evaluate:** Randomly assigned papers, using a rubric
- **Analyze:** View comments received from classmates and Comment on the feedback

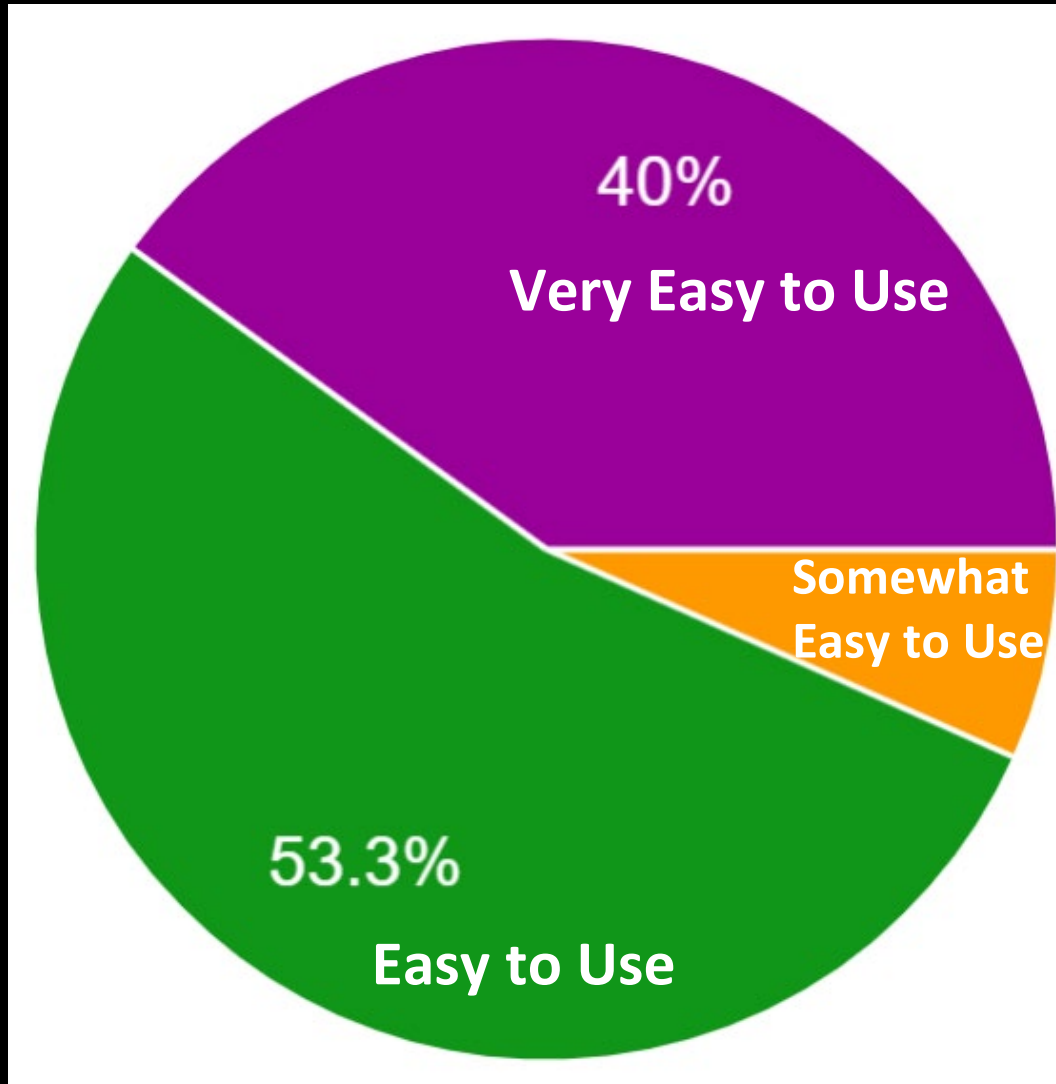
App grades using AI and a grade leveling feature:

- Their reviews of peers
- Scores they receive from peer reviewers
- Their response to feedback received
- How motivating their peers perceive their feedback



Qualitative responses regarding ease of use of Kritik:

quick, easy, straightforward, well-organized



What surprised students
about feedback they received:

- Overall helpfulness of the feedback
- Identification of mistakes they hadn't realized they made
- The efforts of some students

Peer feedback
is linked to
collaborative learning theory

The task of critiquing classmates' work for understanding course concepts

20% Extremely Helpful
47% Very Helpful
20% Moderately Helpful
13% Slightly Helpful

The task of critiquing classmates' for improving writing skills

27% Extremely Helpful
27% Very Helpful
26% Moderately Helpful
20% Slightly Helpful

Students reported Kritik aided their improvement in:

Content
Organization

Sentence
Structure

Content
Clarity

67% rated the **reviews they provided** as highly or very motivating.

46% viewed **feedback received** as highly or very motivating.

40% viewed **feedback received** as moderately motivating.

67% experience with Kritik will be extremely or very helpful when completing future writing assignments

60% **would recommend** Kritik for other writing courses

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