

Employing TAs as Embedded Consultants in the Writing Classroom

What do Embedded Consultations do?

Teaching Assistants (TAs) or Embedded Consultations in a writing classroom offer personalized, immediate feedback, fostering deeper learning and improving writing skills. They enhance student engagement, tailor support to individual needs, and promote active learning. This integration of consultation helps build confidence, supports collaborative learning, and encourages iterative improvement in students' writing.

Best Practices to Consider for Embedded Consultations.

- **Collaborative Planning and Integration:**
 - Begin by collaborating with TAs/consultants during the course planning phase, provide continuous professional development, and clearly define their role and responsibilities.
 - Maintain open lines of communication with TAs/consultants to address student needs promptly. This establishes a feedback loop between faculty and TAs/consultants to evaluate effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
- **In-Class Workshops and Mini-Lessons:**
 - Schedule in-class workshops where TAs/consultants can conduct mini-lessons on topics such as grammar, citation styles, or effective revision strategies. These sessions provide immediate feedback and support to students, reinforcing learning outcomes in real-time.
- **Peer Review Facilitation:**
 - Utilize embedded TAs/consultants to facilitate peer review sessions. Train them to provide constructive feedback and guide discussions on peer-reviewed drafts. This not only relieves faculty workload but also encourages collaborative learning among students.
- **Individualized Support and Office Hours:**
 - Encourage students to visit TAs/consultants during regular business hours for individualized assistance. TAs/consultants can help students at various stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to final revisions, fostering a supportive learning environment outside of regular class time.

- Assessment and Feedback Integration:
 - Integrate TAs/consultants into the assessment process by having them review drafts and provide feedback based on established rubrics. This collaborative approach ensures consistency in grading criteria and reinforces key learning objectives. The assigned Instructor also provides ongoing training for TAs/consultants on pedagogical techniques and effective tutoring strategies.