

"Instructional Support Weekly"

Topic: Show students what was right!

Much of the time you spend grading papers focuses on where students need to improve. But one way to set high expectations is to also ask students to articulate what they did *right*.

When you grade papers:

1. **Keep two pens of different colors** in your hand. With one color, mark the errors you notice, just as you typically would.
2. **Use a second color** to mark things the student did especially well. If there is a well-constructed sentence, a clever use of a phrase or an especially logical argument, circle that portion of the paper.
3. **Hand back the papers** and tell students you want them to focus on the things you have marked in the second color.
4. **Ask students to identify** the reasons you circled the items you did.
5. **Set aside time** for one-to-one meetings with students. Or have students write you a short paragraph in which they lay out what they did correctly.

Only by recognizing excellence can students continue to build on it.

Have a great week!

From the Instructional Support Team at STM

Lisa Dieker, "Blog Buzz - Is Writing an Issue for Any of Your Students?" *Teaching Exceptional Children*, May/June 2009 (Council for Exceptional Children, www.cec.sped.org)