### What Next? Receiving Feedback

**Helpful Guidelines to Make the Most Out of Peer Critique**

Adapted from:
“*What Next? - Receiving Criticism and Practicing Reflective Teaching*”
Josh Reineke formerly of The Sheridan Center, Brown University

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<td><strong>Know the source.</strong></td>
<td>- Understand who is giving the feedback and their perspective. This will help you to appreciate “where they are coming from” so that you can apply the suggestions accordingly.</td>
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| **Welcome feedback.**        | - Encourage feedback when appropriate.  
- Make an effort to listen, not just hear, comments. Do not get defensive or impulsively respond.  
- Remember- do not take criticisms personally. The feedback is intended to help your presentation.  
- Do not feel compelled to act on all feedback (particularly if some comments are less relevant to certain situations – see “Refer to your goals”, below)  
- Use conducive body language (i.e. make eye contact, nod when appropriate, etc.). |
| **Ask clarifying questions.**| - When necessary, restate comments for better understanding.  
- Ask for tangible examples.  
- Invite further discussion. |
| **Refer to your goals.**     | - The goals and objectives of a particular setting will dictate presentation style. When considering feedback keep your goals and objectives in mind. Some criticisms may be very helpful in achieving your goals while others, even if they are good observations, may distract from your goals. |
| **Request suggestions.**    | - Ask for specific suggestions and/or tactics for improvement. This will help to focus feedback sessions on constructive criticisms and create a collegial environment.                                                                                             |
| **Implement reflective practice.** | - Consider changes to implement.  
- Assess the potential impact of changes on your presentation.  
- Implement new practices with an awareness of how comfortable you will feel.  
- Extend your reflection to consider whether your new practices will indeed enhance your audience’s engagement.                                                                                       |
| **Seek opportunities for continued improvement.** | - Giving effective presentations is a continuous learning process. Use, re-use or adapt any resources such as IMSD materials, Sheridan Center presentation consultations, departmental resources, and resources from professional societies. You can also consult your professors and peers. |

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