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FAQ

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE

CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

WHAT IS PEER ASSESSMENT?

Peer assessment in a group project is a process in which group members evaluate each other's contributions, performance, and the quality of work done within the team. It typically involves individuals providing feedback or assigning grades to their peers based on predefined criteria, which may include aspects such as:

1. Collaboration: How well each member worked with others, communicated, and contributed to the group's progress.
2. Quality of Contribution: The level of effort and the quality of work produced by each member.
3. Timeliness: Whether each member met deadlines and adhered to the project schedule.
4. Problem-Solving and Creativity: The ability to think critically, suggest solutions, and contribute creative ideas.
5. Leadership or Support: Taking initiative, leading, or supporting other members in achieving project goals.

The purpose of peer assessment is to:

- Ensure accountability: It holds each group member responsible for their part of the project.
- Provide constructive feedback: Helps individuals understand their strengths and areas for improvement.
- Enhance fairness: It can adjust the final grade or evaluation to reflect individual contributions rather than just a group-wide grade.

Peer assessments can be anonymous or open and may involve rating scales or written comments. The feedback provided can be used by instructors to adjust individual grades or inform future group dynamics.

References

- Topping, K. J. (2009). Peer assessment. *Theory into Practice*, 48(1), 20-27.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00405840802577569>

For more information visit

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/catalogs/tip-sheets/methods-assessing-group-work>