

## **Asynchronous Online Comment Codes**

### **TYPE of comment**

**Global (g):** Is the comment addressing major issues with “content, focus, organization, point of view [or] tone?” (Ryan & Zimmerelli 2010 p. 9)

**Surface (s):** Is this comment addressing issues in an individual sentence? Does it cover things such as clarity, sentence structure, word choice, punctuation, or citation?

**Meta-textual (met-txt):** Is the comment referring to a non-rhetorical aspect of the session or text, or offering a description of what a consultant will do during the session (e.g. opening and closing comments)?

### **FOCUS: What is the comment about?**

**Correctness (cor):** Is the comment correcting an error, such as those that could be found in grammar, punctuation, spelling, or writing mechanics?

**Organization (org):** Does the comment make a suggestion that results in changing the paper’s organization?

**Content (cnt):** Does the comment suggest adding content, point out a lack of content, or interact with the content?

**Style:** Does the comment fit one of these uses of “style?”

- **style-clarity:** Is the comment on an issue with clarity, such as sentence structure or word choice?
- **style-format:** Is the comment on an issue that is a matter of formatting style, such as APA or MLA?
- **style-genre:** Does the comment address an issue related to the conventions of the written genre, such as informal speech or contractions?

(continued on reverse)

## **MODE: How does the comment communicate the focus?**

**Advice (ad):** Is the comment phrased as advice from the perspective of the consultant?

**Questions:** Is the comment addressing the focus by asking a question?

- **Closed Question (qst-clsd):** Can the question be answered with “yes” or “no”?
- **Open Question (qst-op):** Does the question ask for a more detailed response?

**Explanation (exp):** Does the comment explain why something should be included, but does not make a direct suggestion to include it?

**Praise (prs):** Does the comment praise the student or the content of the paper?

**Command (cmd):** Does the comment make a specific suggestion, but phrases it as an imperative?

**Qualified Command (q-cmd):** Softens the imperative with “you should” phrasing.

**Criticism (crit):** Does the comment point out an issue, but offers no specific suggestion?

**Qualified Criticism (q-crit):** Does the comment point out an issue without offering a specific suggestion, but uses qualifiers (i.e. ‘softens the blow’ of the criticism)?

**Recast (rcst):** Does the comment offer no explanation, suggestion, or acknowledgment of the specific issue, but simply offers a corrected version of the text? (usually, stands alone in its own comment bubble with no other input from the tutor)

**Miscellaneous (misc):** Does the comment contain a feature that is not covered by any of the above codes? If the *miscellaneous* code is used, the comment feature classified as *miscellaneous* must be analyzed separately to determine its role in the comment and why it does not fit with any of the other codes.

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For details about the development of the coding system and about initial research using it, see the following article:

Weirick, J., Davis, T., & Lawson, D. (2017). Writer L1/L2 Status and Asynchronous Online Writing Center Feedback: Consultant Response Patterns. *Learning Assistance Review (TLAR)*, 22(2), 9-38

## Graduate Writing Group Comment Codes

### Method 1: Style of Feedback

Corrective = actual insertions/deletions on the page [maps onto 1 & 2 in Method 2]

Directive = tells the writer what to do but makes no actual changes to the page; specific options mentioned; should/must/need; would if it offers a specific change

Interactive = talks to the writer/about the text; offers commentary; asks questions; could/might/maybe; would if it is less of a specific change & more of a personal preference

Evaluative = makes a judgement call; labels something good or bad

### Method 2: Focus of Feedback

#### 1. Direct Deletions

- a. Word = Single letter up to one complete word
- b. Phrase = Two words up to entire sentence
- c. Punctuation

#### 2. Direct Insertions

- a. Word = Single letter to one complete word
- b. Phrase = Two words up to entire sentence
- c. Punctuation

#### 3. Discipline-Specific Comments

- a. Data handling = Inclusion/exclusion of data; choice/explanation of statistics
- b. Measures = Sample questions; methods of measuring; relevance of proposed measures
- c. Visual model vs. text = Language to explain visual model; specific data in table vs. text vs. both
- d. Literature/citations/style guide = Relevant lit.; handling of lit.; style & format issues
- e. General content = Clarity of content; amount of explanation; suggestions for new material/topics; connections with other fields; coherence of argument; causal language
- f. Other

#### 4. Organization Comments

- a. Paragraph = Order of sentences within a single paragraph; transitions between sentences; addition or deletion of sentences to clarify main points or connections (as opposed to clarifying content)
- b. Section organization = Order of paragraphs within a single section of the document; transition phrases/sentences between paragraphs to clarify main points/connections
- c. Whole document = Organization between sections or across the whole document

#### 5. Sentence Level Comments

- a. Grammar = punctuation, plurals, articles, tenses, etc.
- b. Vocabulary = consistent terminology, word choice, nuances of word meaning, etc.
- c. Sentence structure = clause placement, sentence length, asides or parentheticals or dashes, grammatical aspects of forming a sentence
- d. Sentence clarity = requests to rephrase, comments about lack of understanding, could mean two different things/which did you mean, etc.