LEVERAGING PEAR AND COURSELINK FOR GROUP PEER ASSESSMENT

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AGENDA

• Group Work Value and Challenges

• Explore PEAR’s Group Assessment Option
  – What is a PEAR Group Assessment?
  – Considerations when using a PEAR Group Assessment
  – Setting up a Group Assessment in PEAR
  – Creating a Grading Form for a Group Assessment
  – Exporting the grades from a Group Assessment to CourseLink

• Explore PEAR’s Distribution of Group Effort Option
  – What is a PEAR Distribution of Group Effort?
  – Considerations when using a PEAR Distribution of Group Effort
  – Setting up a Distribution of Effort in PEAR
  – Exporting the grades from a Distribution of Effort to CourseLink

• Support and Q&A
GROUP WORK VALUE AND CHALLENGES
The Value of Group Work

The value of having students work in groups:
• Developing important work-relevant skills such as planning & time management, collaboration, communication skills, etc.
• Tackling more complex problems that would be more challenging individually
• Stimulating creativity
• Gaining insight into their own strengths and weaknesses

The value of group work for instructors:
• Provide students with more complex & authentic problems to work on (two heads are better than one)
• Useful when the number of topics is limited
• May reduce instructional team grading time*
GROUP WORK AND ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES

Not all group members may put in the same effort

• Giving all students in a group an equal grade may not be appropriate in all cases
• It can be difficult, especially in large classes, for an instructor to be involved enough to understand group dynamics across many different groups
• Strategies such as using a group contract can help to encourage students to work in an equitable way
• A group contract on its own can be difficult to enforce
• Asking students to evaluate each other openly often results in unrealistic assessments (fear of reprisal for poor assessments, not wanting to hurt feelings, etc.)
A POTENTIAL GROUP ASSESSMENT SOLUTION

Enter PEAR and its 2 Group Assessment Options

- A PEAR project can be associated with your CourseLink course site and import the groups you are already using
- From there, you can use either a Group Assessment stage or a Distribution of Group Effort stage to allow students to evaluate each other (anonymous option)
- The scores from group peer assessments can then be exported to CourseLink and used as an independent grade or to alter a group’s overall grade for individuals within that group
PEAR’S GROUP ASSESSMENT OPTION
WHAT IS A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT?
WHAT IS A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT?

• Provides a way to have group members assess each other’s performance for any activity: Assignment, presentation, long term project, etc.
• Students have a window to start and complete an assessment of each member of their group.
• Students use a grading form created in PEAR by the instructor to perform the assessment.
• The grading form usually includes numeric criteria to allow a score to be provided.
• The average score of those provided by each group member for each student can be exported to a CourseLink Grade item.
WHAT IS A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT?

Group 1
(3 Members)

Group 2
(3 Members)

Group 3
(3 Members)

Group 4
(3 Members)

Group 5
(3 Members)

Group 6
(3 Members)

Group 7
(3 Members)

Group 8
(3 Members)
WHAT IS A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT?

Member 1
PEAR Grading Form

Member 2
PEAR Grading Form

Member 3
PEAR Grading Form

Member 2 Member 3 Self Assess (Optional)

Member 1 Member 3 Self Assess (Optional)

Member 1 Member 2 Self Assess (Optional)

8.5 10 9.5

9.0 9.5 9.5

8.0 9.0 9.0

Member 3 Average = (9.0 [self] + 9.5 + 10) / 3 = 9.5
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT

Do you want group assessments to be anonymous?

• In most cases, we find that enabling the anonymous option allows students to give an honest assessment.

• While the reviews are anonymous between group members, you as the instructor will be able to see which students provided which scores to which members.

• Assessments are made through a PEAR grading form, which should (ideally) include some comment questions to justify scores given.
  – Be sure to instruct students not to include any language that may identify who is providing the assessment to maintain anonymity.
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT

Do you want students to be able to resubmit their assessments?
• In most cases, we find leaving this option off is best
• Students will sometimes coordinate outside of PEAR or contact a close friend from a group after their original assessment and modify scores
  – “I gave you a 9.5, can you give me the same?”
• In smaller, higher-level courses – 3rd year and up you may find leaving the option on is less problematic and provides an opportunity to reflect an adjust as needed
Do you want students to perform a self assessment?

- If enabled the student will perform an assessment of their own work using the same grading form that they use to evaluate their fellow group members.
- Enabling this option offers an important opportunity for self-reflection for students.
- However, enabling this option also provides a way for students to boost their own grade (sometimes without it being deserved).
- As the instructor, you may also look at the scores for outliers using standard deviation.
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT

What questions do you want to include in your grading form?

- You will need to create/design a PEAR grading form for students to use
- Grading Forms have 3 criteria types: **Comment** (text), **Numeric** (score), **Select From List** (not scored)
- We recommend pairing Numeric Scores with Comments to allow students to justify/explain the score provided
- We also recommend providing some guidance/examples
- A good starting point for setting up group assessment grading forms can often be the group contract (if used)
SETTING UP A GROUP ASSESSMENT IN PEAR
**SETTING UP A GROUP ASSESSMENT IN PEAR**

Group Assessments are set up by following these steps:

1. Create a PEAR project and link it to your course site
2. Set up the Group Assessment stage
   - Set dates (start, due, accept until, release)
   - Set options (allow re-submissions, include self-assessment, anonymous)
   - Select the grading form for the assessment (or select later if not yet created)
3. Import students from your course site from the Users tab
4. Import groups from your course site from the Groups tab
IMPORTING COURSELINK GROUPS INTO PEAR

Tips for Importing Groups from CourseLink to PEAR

• First ensure you groups are set up (and stable) in CourseLink
• In your PEAR project, first import the users (to load the students into the project), then select the group category with the student you wish to import
• On import, the list is static. This means that if users/groups change in CourseLink, they WILL NOT change in PEAR
  – You can modify groups & add users in PEAR as required
• If you are not using CourseLink for Groups, you may also set up Groups directly in PEAR, after importing the students
EXPORTING GRADES FROM A GROUP ASSESSMENT TO COURSELINK
EXPORTING GRADES FROM A GROUP ASSESSMENT TO COURSELINK

The steps to export group assessment grades:

1. Ensure the Group Assessment stage is linked to the appropriate grade item in CourseLink (Details tab)
2. Once the Group Assessment’s Accept Until date has past, access the Grades tab in PEAR and select the Group Assessment stage
3. Check for a warning that the max points of the grading form does not match that of the grade item (adjust grade item if required)
4. Use the Update CourseLink Gradebook button to transfer the average scores from the assessments to CourseLink
EXPORTING GRADES FROM A GROUP ASSESSMENT TO COURSELINK

Tips for your PEAR Grades Items in CourseLink

• You may want to hide your grade in CourseLink prior to exporting from PEAR to ensure they grades look correct before revealing them to students

• The grade item used in CourseLink can be stand alone or nested in a category

• Category Example: Group Project grade category worth 20% towards the final grade, with an item for the project worth 75% of that 20% (all group members get the same grade) and an item linked to PEAR for the Group Assessment Score received worth 25% of that 20% (Each group member gets a unique grade)
EXPORTING GRADES FROM A GROUP ASSESSMENT TO COURSELINK

Category Example Continued...

- Group Project Score = 13/15 (all group members)
- Group Assessment: Owen scores 9/10, Carolyn scores 8/10, Rich scores 6/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Project Category (20% of Final)</th>
<th>Owen 87.6% (17.52 % of Final) [69.6 + 18]</th>
<th>Carolyn 85.6% (17.12% of Final) [69.6 + 16]</th>
<th>Rich 81.6% (16.32% of Final) [69.6 + 12]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Project Grade Item (80% of category)</td>
<td>13/15 (87% * .80 = 69.60%)</td>
<td>13/15 (87% * .80 = 69.60%)</td>
<td>13/15 (87% * .80 = 69.60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEAR Group Assessment Grade Item (20% of category)</td>
<td>9/10 (90% * .20 = 18%)</td>
<td>8/10 (80% * .20 = 16%)</td>
<td>6/10 (60% * .20 = 12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GROUP ASSESSMENT DEMO
GROUP ASSESSMENT DEMO

We will...
• Quickly set up a PEAR project with Group Assessment
• Import students and groups from CourseLink

You can access the project after the session to see the student experience and complete a demo assessment
PEAR’s DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT OPTION
What is a PEAR Distribution of Group Effort?
WHAT IS A PEAR DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT?

• Provides a simple/quick way to have group members assess each other’s performance for any activity
• Students have a window to start and complete their group distribution of effort
• Students receive a pool of points, based the number per group member set by the instructor and the number of group members
  – 3 students in a group, 10 points/student = 30 point pool
• Students use slider bars to distribute that pool of points to all group members (including themselves)
• The average score of those distributions for each student can be exported to a CourseLink Grade item
What is a PEAR Distribution of Group Effort?

Group 1 (3 Members)

Group 2 (3 Members)

Group 3 (3 Members)

Group 4 (3 Members)

Group 5 (3 Members)

Group 6 (3 Members)

Group 7 (3 Members)

Group 8 (3 Members)
**WHAT IS A PEAR DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT?**

**Member 1**

Pool of Points (30)

- **Member 1**: 14
- **Member 2**: 8
- **Member 3**: 8

**Member 2**

Pool of Points (30)

- **Member 1**: 10
- **Member 2**: 10
- **Member 3**: 11

**Member 3**

Pool of Points (30)

- **Member 1**: 8
- **Member 2**: 10
- **Member 3**: 9

**Member 3 Average = (8 + 10 + 9) / 3 = 9**
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT

• You will have some of the same considerations as Group Assessments
  – Do you want the distributions to be anonymous?
  – Do you want to allow students the opportunity to resubmit their distributions until the due date?

• Some of the considerations from Group Assessment will not apply
  – Grading Forms are not used
  – Self assessments are mandatory, not optional
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT

• There will also be some new considerations:
  – How many points will be allotted per group member to create a Group’s pool of points?
    • Example: 10 points/student, group of 3 = 30 points
  – What are the minimum and maximum values per student?
    • Example: 10 points per student, Max = 15, Min = 5
  – What increment will be used during the distribution?
    • Example: 0.5 points would allow scores of 5, 5.5, 6, etc.
  – Will Zero scores be removed entirely, reducing the pool of points for the remaining students?
    • Example: Group of 3 at 10 points/student, where a student is scored a zero would leave 20 points to distribute to the 3 remaining members, not 30
CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING A PEAR GROUP ASSESSMENT

• Distribution of Group Effort is purely a quantitative score
  – Students are only providing a raw score
  – There is not opportunity to justify why they are providing that score, as there would be via a grading form in a Group Assessment
  – When using a Distribution of Group Effort, it is advisable to use PEAR’s overview tab to look for instances of exceptional standard deviations before transferring grades to CourseLink
SETTING UP A DISTRIBUTION OF EFFORT IN PEAR
SETTING UP A DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT IN PEAR

Distribution of Group Effort is set up by following these steps:

1. Create a PEAR project and link it to your course site
2. Add and set up the Distribution of Group Effort stage
   - Set dates (start, due, accept until, release)
   - Set options (allow re-submissions, anonymous)
   - Determine the number of points per student that will make up the pool of points (this is like an out of score)
   - Determine the minimum and maximum points that can be distributed to each student
   - Determine the increment by which points can be distributed
   - Decide if the points should be removed if a zero score is given
3. Import students from your course site from the Users tab
4. Import groups from your course site from the Groups tab
EXPORTING THE GRADES FROM A DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT TO COURSELINK
EXPORTING THE GRADES FROM A DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT TO COURSELINK

Steps to export group assessment grades:

1. Ensure the Distribution of Group Effort stage is linked to the appropriate grade item in CourseLink (Details tab)

2. Once the Accept Until date has past, access the Grades tab in PEAR and select the Distribution of Group Effort stage

3. Check for a warnings
   – Note: Distribution of Group Effort can often result in grades that exceed the max points of a grade item, so you may want to enable the “can exceed” option

4. Use the **Update CourseLink Gradebook** button to transfer the average scores from the distributions to CourseLink
EXPORTING THE GRADES FROM A DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT TO COURSELINK

Tips for your PEAR Grades Items in CourseLink

• You may want to hide your grade in CourseLink prior to exporting from PEAR to ensure they grades look correct before revealing them to students
• The grade item used in CourseLink can be stand alone or nested in a category, or you may wish to use the distribution of group effort score as a modifier for a group assignment grade
• Modifier Example:
  – Group assignment grade item scored out of 100 via a Group Dropbox folder (all group members get this base score)
  – Students use Distribution of Group Effort in PEAR to evaluate each other
  – Use the percentage associated with the distribution of effort grade and multiply it by the group assignment grade
  – The resulting grade is used as the project grade for each student in the group
**Exporting the Grades from a Group Assessment to CourseLink**

**Modifier Example Continued...**

- Group Assignment Score = 13/15 (all group members)
- Group Distribution: Owen scores 11/10, Carolyn scores 9.5/10, Rich scores 7/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Project Grade Item (20% of Final)</th>
<th>Owen 95.3% [\frac{(1.1 \times 13)}{15}] (19.06% of Final)</th>
<th>Carolyn 82.3% [\frac{(0.95 \times 13)}{15}] (16.46% of Final)</th>
<th>Rich 60.7% [\frac{(0.7\times13)}{15}] (12.14% of Final)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Assignment Hidden grade item (0% of final grade)</td>
<td>13/15 (87%)</td>
<td>13/15 (87%)</td>
<td>13/15 (87%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEAR Distribution Hidden grade item Can Exceed enabled (0% of final grade)</td>
<td>11/10 (110%)</td>
<td>9.5/10 (95%)</td>
<td>7/10 (70%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISTRIBUTION OF GROUP EFFORT DEMO
GROUP ASSESSMENT DEMO

- Add a Distribution of Group Effort to our previous project
- Perform an assessment of your group members using group distribution of effort (if time allows)
WHERE TO GET PEAR SUPPORT

CourseLink Support
• Can help you or your students with any basic questions or technical issues
• Email: courselink@uoguelph.ca
• Phone x.56939

Instructional Technology Specialists (ITS)
• Can help setting up your first PEAR project or work with you on integrating it into your course assignments
• Email: insttech@uoguelph.ca
• Consultation Requests: https://bit.ly/UG-ITS-Consult
QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD