ComPAIR: A Flexible Teaching Technology for Facilitating Peer Evaluation

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Evaluation Strategies
Ido Roll
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(Some part of the project are much bigger than me now, so I’m likely missing people)
How would you describe this figure?
How would you describe it now?

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Comparisons Facilitate Learning

Contrasting cases allow us to highlight features or concepts that students might otherwise miss, and also “set the stage” for future noticing.


Comparisons are Easier for Novices

Thurstone’s Law of Comparative Judgement (paraphrased):
It is much easier to say that A is better than B, than give each an absolute score or give an overall absolute rank of assignments (expert behaviour)

What is ComPAIR?

Free, Open Source (GPL v3 licence) Software designed and built at UBC to facilitate assignments and peer evaluation/feedback built around comparisons.

1. Go to the following link: compairdemo.ctlt.ubc.ca
2. Choose Student account
3. Click on the ComPAIR Demo Course
4. Answer the “What is the best film of all time?” question
5. When you’re done answering, start comparing!
ComPAIR Learning Application

Welcome to the ComPAIR tool! With this tool, you will show your understanding of course content by answering the assignments posted by your instructor and then comparing pairs of your peers’ answers and offering constructive feedback on how they can improve.

Your courses

If you don’t see the course(s) you expect below: 1) check your registration in the course (for example, see if you have access to the course in Canvas) and contact UBC IT support to register, then 2) if your course has a Canvas site, click the ComPAIR link from there once. For further help, contact ComPAIR technical support.

ComPAIR Demo Course »

2 assignments total  2 assignments to do  2019 W1
ComPAIR Demo Course (2019 W1)

For each assignment below, you will first submit your own answer. Then you will compare pairs of anonymous peer answers. Try to make your answer as strong as possible, since your peers will also read and compare it anonymously with other answers.

All course assignments

Start a short story »

Answers not yet available | No feedback received | You missed answering | 3 comparisons needed | Comparisons due Jun 9

What is the best film of all time? »

Answers not yet available | No feedback received | 1 answer and 3 comparisons needed | Answer due Sep 25
Answer

Answer the assignment with a file attachment and/or response in the text editor. Please note answers are not automatically saved as you type. However, you may manually save a draft of your answer below.

Show description for assignment "What is the best film of all time?"

What is the best film of all time?

Assignment after comparison period (with external links to images and videos)

Share the best film ever produced. Include a short summary (one sentence) and include a compelling clip or screen from the film. Then provide reviews and evaluations on three pairs of your peers’ chosen film. (You will in turn receive peer feedback on your own chosen film.)
ComPAIR Demo Course (2019 W1)

For each assignment below, you will first submit your own answer. Then you will compare pairs of anonymous peer answers. Try to make your answer as strong as possible, since your peers will also read and compare it anonymously with other answers.

All course assignments

Start a short story

- Answers not yet available
- No feedback received
- You missed answering
- 3 comparisons needed

What is the best film of all time?

- Answers not yet available
- No feedback received
- You answered
- 3 comparisons needed

Compare Pairs

Comparisons due Jun 9

Compare Pairs

Comparisons due Sep 25
1) Choose the answer that best meets the criteria below

**Criterion #1**

Which is better?

*Pick which film is overall better.*

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**Which is better?**

*Select Your Choice*  
[Answer 1]  [Answer 2]

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**Peer Feedback**

Your private feedback for Answer 1’s author

Your private feedback for Answer 2’s author
Which Courses Currently Use ComPAIR?

ComPAIR used by at least 50 courses and 5600 students across UBC. Instances are also being run at Capilano University, Western, Waterloo, St Johns high School, and University of New Brunswick.

APSC 366 - The Art of the Possible
ASIA 354 - Introduction to Japanese Cinema
ASTU 204 - Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities
BIOL 200 - Fundamentals of Cell Biology
BIOL 463 - Gene Regulation in Development
COMM 462 - Integrated Marketing Communication
CONS 330 - Conservation Science and Sustainability
ENGL 110 - Approaches to Literature
ENGL 489 - Language Majors Seminar
ENPH 352 - Laboratory Techniques in Physics
ISCI 360 - Systems Approaches to Regional Sustainability
ISCI 422 - Models in Science
PHYS 333 - Climate and Energy
MATH 110 - Differential Calculus
MATH 104 - Differential Calculus with Applications to Commerce and Social Sciences
MATH 317 - Calculus IV
POLI 380 - Quantitative Methods in Political Science
SCIE 001 - Science One
VISA 110 - Foundation Digital Visual Arts
WRDS 150 - Research and Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences
WRDS 350 - Interdisciplinary Studies in Arts
1. **Students generate questions** in ComPAIR
   - What would you like this course to answer?
   - “If we changed all the gasoline transmission in Vancouver to electric transmissions, what would be the change in the atmosphere after 1 year?”

2. **Students work on problem in Piazza** facilitated by instructor
   - Understand the Problem (week 1)
   - Make a Plan (week 2)
   - Individually write up and submit problem to ComPAIR (week 3)

3. **Students do comparisons** in ComPAIR with self reflection (week 4)

Students are **graded on the quality of feedback and self reflection** they give while doing comparisons.
Learning Happens While Comparing

Students report that **doing the comparisons** is where they felt the most learning occurred.

Students Think it’s Useful

Student’s enjoy using the tool and **self report that it’s useful for learning**. We’re still trying to evaluate learning directly (it turns out this is tricky).
Email/Post on Google Group <compair@googlegroups.com> if you’re interested in how to set up an installation at your university or high school or asking questions about ComPAIR. Also join Google group for latest update on ComPAIR.

(If you’re at UBC it’s already in Canvas!)

Arts Guide: isit.arts.ubc.ca/compair/
LTH Guide: lthub.ubc.ca/guides/compair
ComPAIR Demo: compairdemo.ctlt.ubc.ca
ComPAIR Code: github.com/ubc/compair