How Can I use Mid-Term Course Evaluations for Pedagogical Improvement?

Background

Mid-term course evaluations provide a means for collecting information about the students' experiences in a given course at a point in the semester which allows instructors to make adjustments to their instruction before summative evaluations are administered. Student evaluations have proven to be a stable, reliable, and multi-dimensional tool that permits instructors to target feedback regarding discrete aspects of instruction.[1]

In designing one's own instrument with input from departmental members, the instructor may address key learning outcomes of a given program, and strategies particular to the instructor. The evaluation may target students' experiences with research, field work, and key assignments. Ideally, the data will inform the instructor about the pace, clarity, organization, and meaningfulness of instruction.

Sample

***Directions**: Don not include your name on this form. Please circle the response that best describes your thoughts about each statement. You may add comments. This information will be used by the instructor to make improvements in the course. Thank you.*

Scoring Scale

1=Strongly disagree 2=Mildly disagree 3=Equally disagree and agree 4= Mildly agree 5= Strongly agree

1. The instructor is consistently on time for class	*1 2 3 4 5*
2. The lessons are well organized and well-paced	*1 2 3 4 5*
3. Each lesson's objectives are very clear	*1 2 3 4 5*
4. Class activities and discussions engage students in the learning process	*1 2 3 4 5*
5. The instructor is available for assistance outside class	*1 2 3 4 5*
6. Lessons consistently address issues that help students understand their world	*1 2 3 4 5*
7. Assessments of student work are fair	*1 2 3 4 5*
8. Assessments of student work are aligned with the course outcomes	*1 2 3 4 5*
9. The instructor demonstrates mastery of the subject matter	*1 2 3 4 5*
10. The materials used in this course are aligned with course outcomes	*1 2 3 4 5*
11. I would like more help with understanding the readings	*1 2 3 4 5*
12. Lessons consistently prompt me to think deeply about the subject	*1 2 3 4 5*

Comments:

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Thank you.

[1] Marsh. H. W. (2007). Students' Evaluation of university Teaching. *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, pp. 319-383. Springer.