**Adapted from “How to Get Students to Read (and Use) Your Comments”**

By Erin Kelly

***Day One: Leave 20 or so minutes after turning back graded papers for students to do one or both of the following:***

In-Class Activity #1: Require students to write you a memo that summarizes your written comments. You can also encourage students to use this memo to ask questions about comments or a grade, and thus you can easily evaluate the effectiveness of your grading process.

In-Class Activity #2: Ask students to use your comments to write a set of two or three goals for the next paper. It is particularly effective to have students attach this list of goals to the new paper so that you can comment while grading on how well they met these goals.

***Day One Homework: Assign one or both of the following:***

Homework Activity #1: Ask students to attempt to correct their surface errors using your comments and their handbook.

Homework Activity #2: Ask students to attempt to revise their global errors using your comments and their handbook

***Day Two: Go around the room and check students’ homework. Since students may not be able to decipher your writing and/or may not understand what they’ve done wrong, allow time for questions. You may choose to count their homework as a daily grade OR tell them that until they have completed this homework assignment, they have a zero for that essay. N.B. This is a ripe time for mini-lessons on specific surface errors, especially if multiple students are having a problem with the same rule.***

Homework Activity #3: Make students “publish” a section of their papers. Ask students to “publish” part of their papers on TRACS using your comments as a guide. Students are usually highly motivated to make “public” work excellent, and they will rely on your comments to help them perfect their efforts.

**Essay #\_\_\_ Reflection**

**Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**#1: Summarize my terminal comment (the comment on the last page).**

**#2: Summarize my marginal comments (the comments in the margins).**

**#3. List your top three take-aways from my marginal and terminal comments on this paper.**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**#4: Do you think that my comments are valid? Yes / No**

**If not, which comments are inaccurate? How so?**

**#5: For your next essay, what are your top three goals?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**#6: For homework, correct all of the surface errors I have circled/highlighted. You will have a zero ­­­­­­­­­­­until #1-5 are completed. Please ask me if you have any questions.**