



Colleague Swap

“In using the Colleague Swap, students earn grade-applicable credit by exchanging writing assignments with three to five of their classmates. Throughout this process, students evaluate, proofread, and critique one another’s work. At the same time that this strategy encourages writing improvement, it also empowers students to work together as active agents of academic enhancement in their own classes.”

This “patch” and paragraph was intriguing to me because I found myself making connections to similar experiences I have had. Although I don’t teach writing, I have also had my students observe, critique and provide feedback to one another during labs where they are practicing clinical skills. The process, not only empowers them “to work together as active agents” to improve their clinical skills, they also begin to learn the process of observing, critiquing and providing feedback to others. This will be a valuable skill after they graduate and may provide supervision to students on clinical placements. They also learn by watching others perform well and by watching others make mistakes. It changes the “lense” through which they learn about their own performance.