

Fast But Fair Methods to Grade Writing

Linda Nilson

Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation
Clemson University

Friday, January 21, 2005.

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Pierpont Auditorium

Grawn Hall

What you will learn in this workshop will save you time doing what is probably your least favorite teaching task, grading written work, without sacrificing accuracy or fairness to your students. You may even be able to add more writing assignments and essay tests in your courses. If you now grade this kind of written work using an atomist or analytical grading key, you are probably taking more time than you have to. By using one of two holistic grading methods, you can radically reduce your grading time. In fact, a chemistry professor who published a journal article on using one holistic method slashed his report grading time by 80%. This workshop will most benefit instructors who are not familiar or comfortable with holistic grading.



Linda Nilson is founding director of the Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation at Clemson University and author of *Teaching at Its Best: A Research-Based Resource for College Instructors*, the second edition of which was published by Anker last year. As a professor at UCLA for 10 years, she earned very high teaching evaluations, which opened administrative opportunities for her in directing teaching centers – first at the University of California at Riverside, then at Vanderbilt, and now at Clemson. In addition, she has published widely on a variety of teaching topics and conducts faculty workshops across the country.

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