



2024 Teaching and Learning Symposium

Cracking the code: mastering essay criteria for MSc Pharmacology exams

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THE PROBLEM :

MISMATCH BETWEEN TUTORS' AND MSC STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF CRITERIA



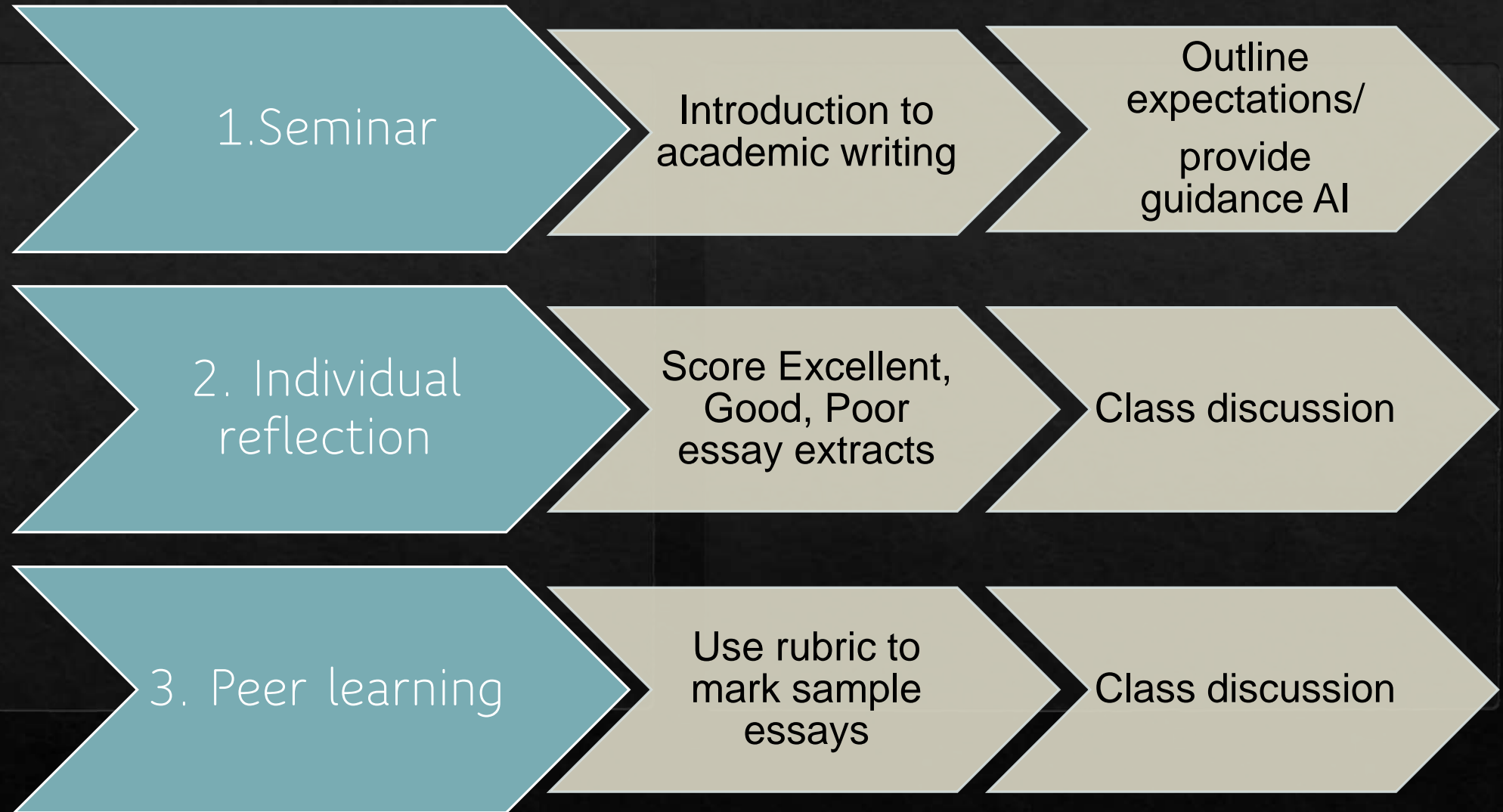
TUTORS- EXAMINERS

- Implicit understanding of criteria
- Difficult to articulate as complex and multidimensional-context dependent
- Unrealistic expectations
- Experience with Oxford UG students

STUDENTS

- Mis-conception of what essay-writing is and what is for- never written one
- Unfamiliarity with structure and conventions of scientific or discipline-specific discourse
- Not clear what critical thinking involves; originality?
- Difficult to interpret rubrics

Decoding and applying criteria for self-regulated learning



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA?

01

Make expectations clear

- Standards to be met (PG vs UG) to achieve learning outcomes
- How work will be graded
- AI tools use

02

Promote inclusion

- Prior experience/background
- Cultural and neuro-diversity

03

Promote **self-regulated learning**

- formative feedback
- expert and peer dialogue



Thank you