

# Giving feedback on a text

Your feedback should be written from a first-person perspective. That means that you should say what YOU think, you shouldn't make general statements.

For example:

| <input type="checkbox"/> first-person perspective | <input type="checkbox"/> general statement                      |
|---|---|
| I like that you had a good introduction.          | <del>Your text is good</del> because it has a good introduction |

The first-person perspective makes it clear that this is your point of view and that someone else might see things differently. A general statement, on the other hand, might feel like an unchangeable fact – which usually doesn't make sense when giving feedback.

## What you can say to start with ...

| <input type="checkbox"/> positive things  | <input type="checkbox"/> negative things  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I like ...</li> <li>• I think it's good that ...</li> <li>• I think</li> <li>• You did a really good job with ...</li> <li>• You wrote a great ...</li> <li>• The ... really convinced me ...</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't understand your ...</li> <li>• I don't agree with ...</li> <li>• I think you could have written ... differently</li> <li>• I can't see why you ...</li> </ul> |

### REMEMBER



- Be polite and use friendly words so that your partner doesn't feel hurt by your criticism.
- Write any criticism in such a way that you could accept it when others criticize YOU in that way.

## If you don't agree or don't understand ...

In this case you can say that you're surprised by something or you could ask questions:

### Expressing surprise

- I'm surprised that ...
- I missed a sentence/section about ...
- I don't understand why you ...

## Questions

- I don't understand that part – what do you mean by it?
- Could you explain that in more detail?
- I would like to know how ...

## Example structure

Your feedback could be structured like this

1. **Describe** what **impression** the text left on you.
2. **Highlight** one section that you think is **especially good** and **explain why**.
3. **Comment on** one section that you think **could be improved** and **explain why and how**.
4. **Name** one section that you think **should be longer** and **explain why**.
5. Give one **example** that **you would write differently** and **show how you would do it**.

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Based on the worksheet “Rückmeldungen sind Ich-Botschaften” by Monica Hettrich, Peter Gallin and Urs Ruf ([CC BY-NC 4.0](#))