



packback

Fearlessly curious.





**Packback is an
Instructional AI supported
online writing and
discussion platform for
developing critical thinking,
curiosity, and writing skills.**



Student Feedback

Spring 2024 Student Feedback Survey

"The writing and discussion features in Packback facilitate the development of my unique voice by providing me with opportunities for expression, interaction with diverse perspectives, and critical thinking. Through engaging discussions and feedback, I can refine my opinions and articulate my thoughts confidently and authentically."

The Difference Between Instructional AI and Generative AI

packback

Instructional AI

Uses AI to coach and teach students **how** to write and critically think

Gives educators sophisticated methods to engage, assess, and provide feedback at scale

Rooted in sound pedagogy leading to improved student outcomes

Generative AI

Uses AI to generate content **for** the user based on user inputs

Can produce inaccurate content and generates fake citations

A conversational agent built upon LLMs for mass public use, rather than built with education in mind



Critical questioning and writing skills are *essential* to college and post-grad life:

- In asking effective questions while interviewing to select the right job after graduation.
- In identifying opportunities for innovation, when starting a business, or working within a team.
- In communicating effectively, with colleagues or clients through written communication.
- In clearly and successfully expressing your thoughts or research, in projects and written assignments.
- In learning new skills independently after graduation, to keep adapting to a changing world!

Our specific Packback course objectives

In this class we're using Packback to:

- **To use polls to assess learning for the Technical lab component**
- **To use discussions for students to ask questions about Cyberinfrastructure and the Data Life Cycle and learn from each other**
- **To develop better writing skills with the class project (Graduate students only)**

Cyberinfrastructure Competency (for undergraduates)

Data Life Cycle Knowledge			Technical Skills		
Assignment	Number	Total % grade	Assignment	Number	Total % grade
		Discussions			Technical labs & Polls
	10	40%		10	30%
	Project: lightning talk		Total	70%	
	1	30%		Total 30%	

Cyberinfrastructure Competency (for graduate students)

Data Life Cycle Knowledge			Technical Skills		
Assignment	Number	Total % grade	Assignment	Number	Total % grade
 Discussions	 10	40%	 Technical labs & Polls	10	30%
 Project: lightning talk	1	10%			
 Project Deep Dives	 1	20%			
		Total 70%			Total 30%

Discussion Board



Participation requirements (Class Discussions)



10 Discussions due

Sundays at 11:59 PM at
the end of the week.



What to Post per deadline period

- Post **1** Question
- Post **2** Responses
(Your choice of a Response, Counterpoint, or Supporting point)

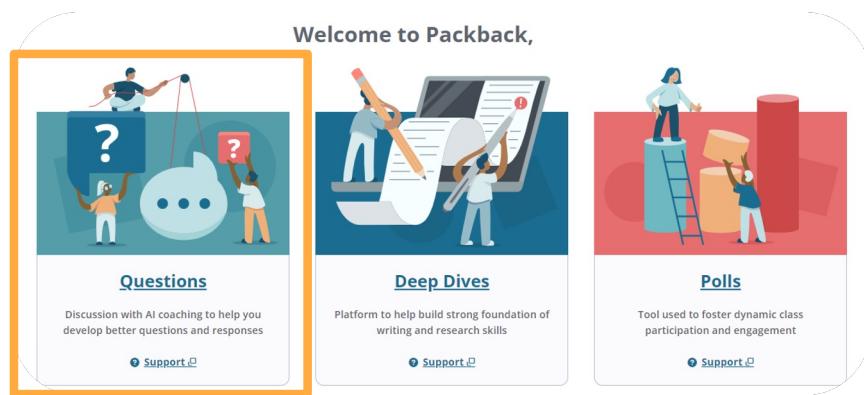


Other Expectations

- Posts must have a minimum Curiosity Score of 70
- Partial Credit (1/2) for less than 70 Curiosity Score.

How to use Packback Questions

- Ask open ended, curious questions to elicit interesting, in depth discussions.
- Respond to your professor/peers' questions and dive into conversations that go beyond the video lectures.



Go to the discussion assignment(s) under the open assignments tab.

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Discussion Assignments' page. At the top, there are tabs for 'Open' (which is circled in red) and 'Closed'. Below the tabs is a search bar labeled 'Search: Search questions and responses'. A specific assignment, 'Journal Club #1', is listed. It includes details like 'Start: Mon, Aug 26th at 8:00 AM MST', 'Due: Sun, Sep 1st at 11:59 PM MST', and a button to 'Submit 1 Question by Thu, Aug 29th at 12:30 PM MST'. To the right of the assignment, there is a 'What's Due?' box showing '1 Question' and '2 Responses', which is also circled in red. Red arrows point from the text instructions to the 'Open' tab and the 'What's Due?' box.

Pay attention to what is due and your current grade progress!

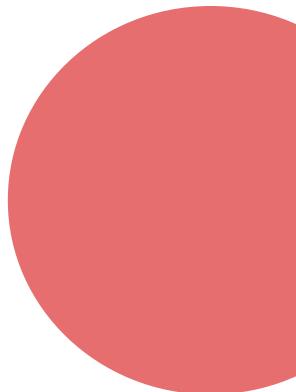
Ask a New Question

Click this red button to ask a question - remember it has to be open ended! Avoid "what is" questioning as those questions tend to have a close ended answer.

Add Response

Click this blue button to respond to a professor/peer's question. You can also receive points by replying to a peer's response to your initial question.

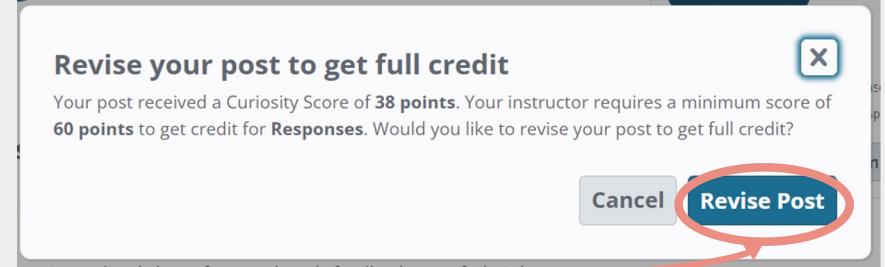
Packback uses AI to assign a *curiosity score* to each question and response.



Curiosity scores (CPs) are based on:

- **Depth:** be thoughtful in your response!
- **Credibility:** cite a high quality source; unsupported opinions don't make for good answers!
- **Presentation:** use our Text Editor to format the answers & insert interesting images / videos to elevate the answer quality.

You will receive live AI feedback as you write on the right side of your screen. Follow the feedback to get to the curiosity score level required by your course. You can go back and edit your posts to increase your curiosity score as needed!



If you receive this warning, revise your post for full points!

Posts on Packback are reviewed by AI

Packback's AI

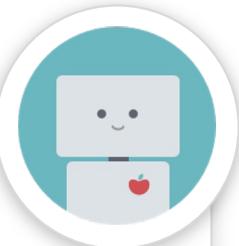
Packback's AI "flags" posts that may be violating community guidelines.

Posts are then reviewed by Packback moderators.

Offending posts are **moderated** and no longer count for credit **until they are re-published**.

Packback's AI flags for:

- **Plagiarism**
- **AI-Generated Responses**
- **Closed Ended Questions** (e.g. "What is the definition of mitosis?")
- **Class Logistics Posts** (e.g. "When is the next test?")
- **Low Effort/Low Detail Posts**



What happens if your post is moderated?



Post is “Flagged”

If your post is “Flagged”, you have not yet lost points!

At this time, your post is still published and still counts for credit.



Post is “Moderated”

If your post is moderated, it is unpublished and no longer counts for credit.

If your post is “Moderated”, you receive an email notifying you.



Post is “Republished”

From the email, you can “edit & re-publish” the post.

Doing so will earn back your points for the post without penalty, so long as you edit before grades are entered.

Packback Deep Dives Writing Assignment (Graduate Students only)

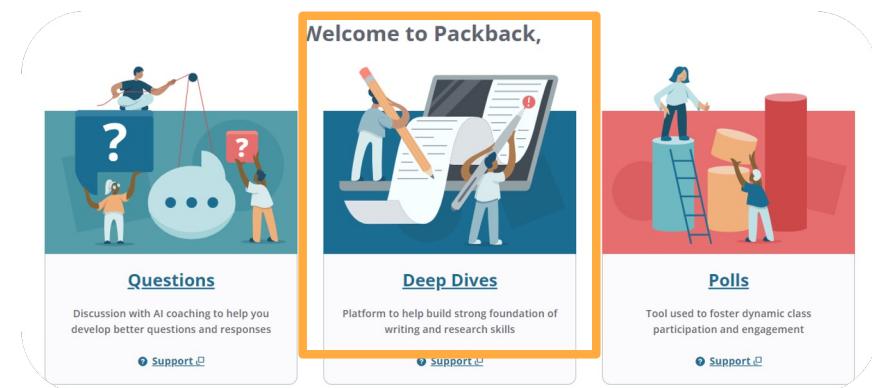


Packback Deep Dives will
support you during your
writing assignments so you
can be an effective researcher
and written communicator,
and so you can submit your
best work possible.



Packback Deep Dives

- Graduate students will have 1 writing assignment in Deep Dives for this course. Please see the course syllabus for information and dates. Follow the prompt and rubric for each assignment.



The image shows two screenshots of the Deep Dives assignments interface. The top screenshot shows the 'Upcoming Assignments' tab, where a specific assignment is circled in red. The bottom screenshot shows a detailed view of the assignment, with its title and start/due dates highlighted, and the 'Start My Deep Dive' button circled in red.

Deep Dives Assignments

Open Closed

Upcoming Assignments

DD01: Data Access and Quality. What have you learned about accessing data and determining quality?
Start: 9/17/2024 at 12:30 PM MST
Due: 9/29/2024 at 11:59 PM MST

Go to the open assignments tab and click into the assignment you wish to work on.

Back to All Deep Dives

Deep Dive

DD01: Data Access and Quality. What have you learned about accessing data and determining quality?

In Metagenomics: From Genes to Ecosystems

Start My Deep Dive

After reading through the Overview and Rubric tabs to best understand your assignment, click the “Start My Deep Dive” Button!

How to Use Deep Dives Feedback Summary:

- The best way to become a better writer is to learn from your mistakes. Therefore, Deep Dives does not provide auto-corrections.
- Your goal as a student, is to ensure that your Feedback Summary circles are fully blue with zero suggestions remaining.
- Once that is completed, you know you have a well written and cohesive paper to submit!

Click into the categories that have suggestion(s) /Alerts to see your feedback

[Back to Writing Feedback](#)

Grammar & Mechanics

Category Value: 5 Points

Grammar Check

Smart Highlights Grammar Faults 6 1 / 16 Jump to highlights

Was this feedback helpful? Helpful Not helpful

Warning

You have unreviewed grammar errors. Grammatical errors can negatively impact legibility.

Nonstandard_phrases

Use "in regard to", "with regard to", or more simply "regarding".

Suggestion: Suggested replacements: "in regard to", "with regard to", "regarding"

Change to:

Explain this to me

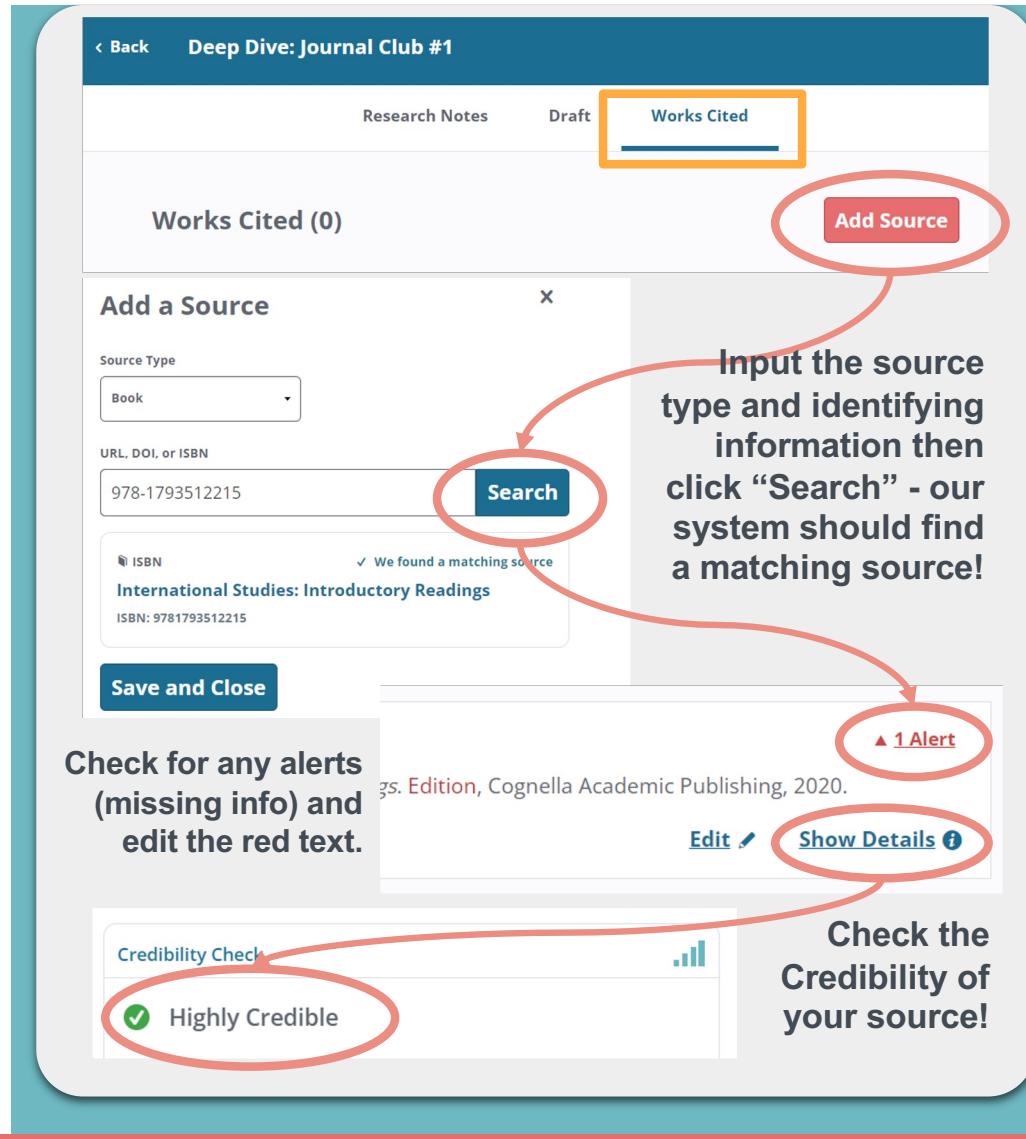
Change Dismiss

Feedback Summary

- Word Count & Depth 1 Suggestion
- Flow & Structure 0 Suggestions
- Formatting & Presentation 0 Suggestions
- Grammar & Mechanics 1 Suggestion Alert
- Research Quality 1 Suggestion

How to Add a Source:

- Packback's AI will grade you on the sources you insert under the **Work Cited Tab**.
 - Listing your sources at the bottom of your paper **will not** be counted and will interfere with your Grammar & Mechanics and Formatting & Presentation grades!
- Packback's AI will grade you on the **number of sources** you use as the **credibility** of those sources.
 - "Credible" and "Highly Credible" will help you receive full credit for your Research Quality grade!
 - As a note: Your professor is the final decision maker on your grade as they are the content expert!



Submissions on Packback are reviewed by AI

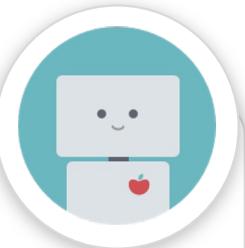
Packback's Originality Report:

Packback's AI "flags" submissions that violate the originality report guidelines.

Offending posts are **moderated** and Packback **informs your professor** directly upon submission.

Packback's AI flags for:

- **Plagiarism**
(copied from sources)
- **AI-Generated Responses**
(ChatGPT, etc)
- **Side-by-Side Comparison**
(matches other Packback submissions)

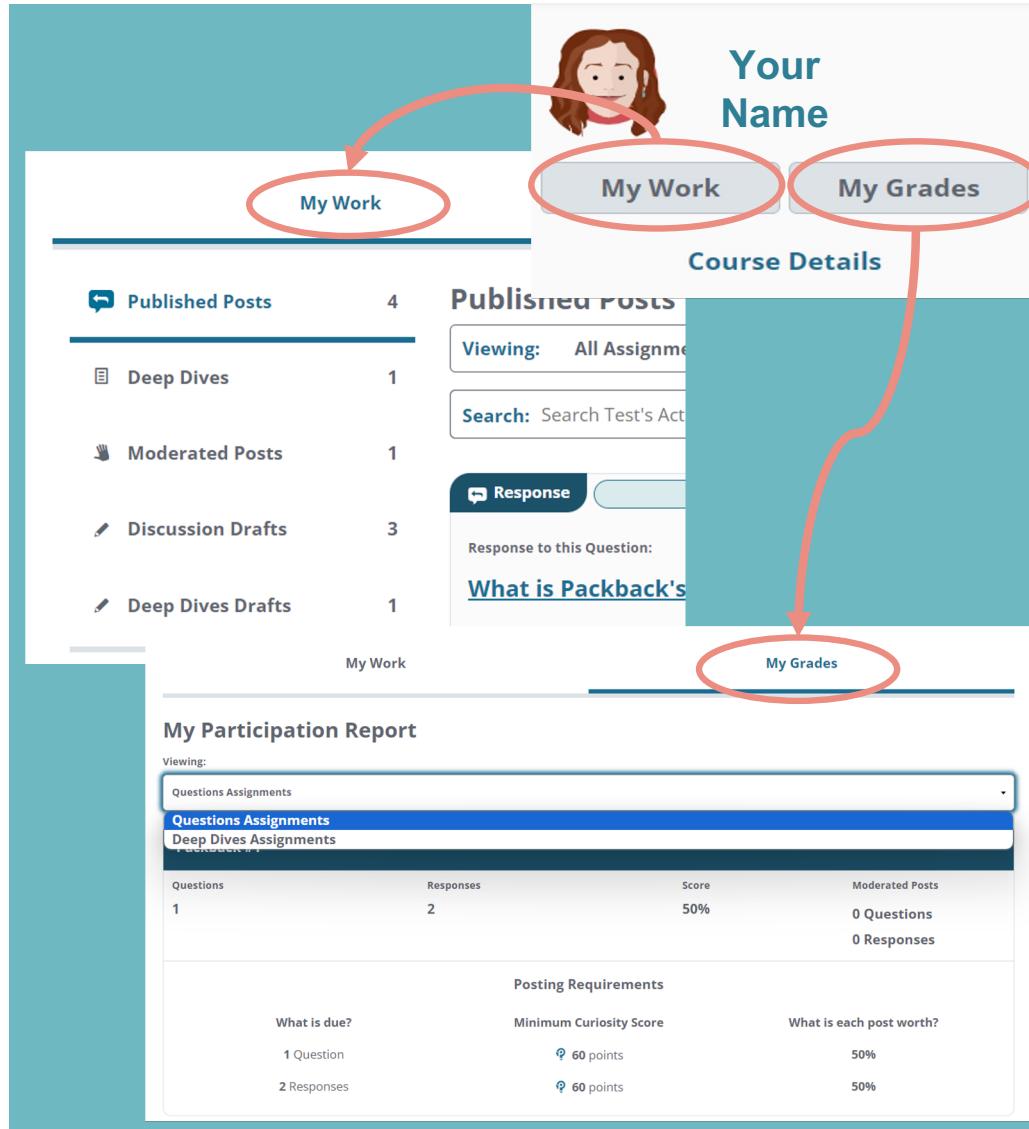


How to Check Grades & Sync Them to the Gradebook



Track your participation

- Find your name and avatar in the top left corner - if you do not see this, click this icon to expand the menu: 
- Under “My Work” you can see all of your posted assignments, drafts, and your moderated posts. 
- Under “My Grades” you can see your grades for all of your assignments.
 - Note: If you completed the required amount of posts and do not have a 100%, this would indicate that you need to raise your curiosity score for one or more of your posts! (as seen in the example to the left)



The screenshot shows a course dashboard with the following sections:

- Top Right:** Your Name (with an avatar), My Work, and My Grades.
- Course Details:** Published Posts (4), Deep Dives (1), Moderated Posts (1), Discussion Drafts (3), Deep Dives Drafts (1).
- Published Posts:** Viewing: All Assignments, Search: Search Test's Act, Response (button), Response to this Question: What is Packback's.
- My Work:** A list of assignments and drafts.
- My Participation Report:** Viewing: Questions Assignments, Questions Assignments (selected), Deep Dives Assignments, Deep Dives Assignments (selected).

Questions	Responses	Score	Moderated Posts
1	2	50%	0 Questions 0 Responses

Posting Requirements:
What is due? 1 Question, 2 Responses
Minimum Curiosity Score: 60 points, 60 points
What is each post worth? 50%, 50%
- My Grades:** A section showing grades for assignments.

Red arrows highlight the "My Work" button in the top navigation, the "My Work" section in the main content, and the "My Grades" section at the bottom.

You are responsible for your gradebook sync!

- Under the “My Grades” tab you can check your sync status for your assignments.

Packback #5A

Questions	Responses	Score	Moderated Posts
1	2	10/10 points	0 Questions 0 Responses

Grade Sync Status:
 Synced

Packback #5B

Questions	Responses	Score	Moderated Posts
1	2	10/10 points	0 Questions 0 Responses

Grade Sync Status:
 Pending

Note: This student has a 10/10 so they are done with this assignment. They are waiting for the deadline to end for their grade to send over to their gradebook (pending)!

What do the “Grade Sync Status” symbols mean?

Grade Sync Status



Synced

Your grade has successfully synced! No further action required.

Grade Sync Status



Action Required

You have not yet synced your gradebook. Please click the correlating assignment in your LMS

Grade Sync Status



Pending

Your grade has successfully synced! It will update when the next deadline falls.

Grade Sync Status



Not Synced

Email help@packback.co for assistance

How to send my Packback grade to the Blackboard gradebook?

Only access Packback via D2L to activate the grade transfer process:

1. Go to your course on D2L
2. Click the link for a Packback assignment you want to sync.
3. Allow Packback to load so you see the community feed.

For your grade to transfer from Packback to Blackboard you must do this for ONE assignment. You can still activate the assignment if the deadline is passed.

Questions?

If you have any issues getting your grade to transfer to Blackboard, please email help@packback.co

Getting Registered & Getting Help



Registering for Packback

Register via D2L

1. Go to your course on D2L
1. Select the first Packback Assignment
1. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co)

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about getting registered on Packback, please email help@packback.co

Need Help?

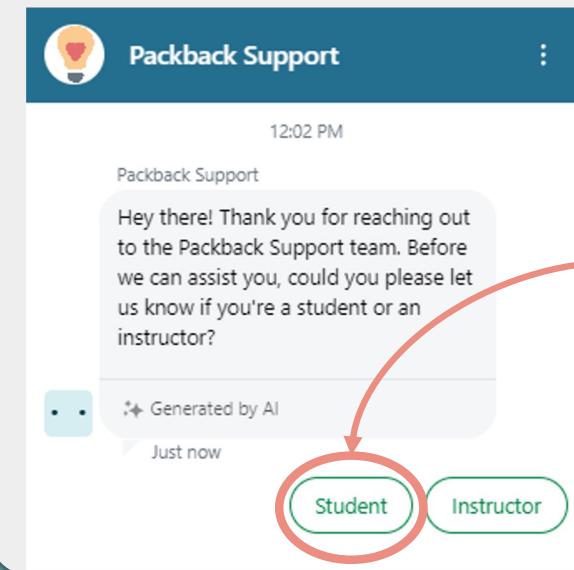
Do NOT email your professor with Packback issues; the Packback help team will be able to assist you faster!

Option 1: Email help@packback.co to chat with a real person!

- Packback's support team is available 7 days a week via email, and will help you with all technical issues.
- You will hear back from a Packback member within 48 hours
 - Note: Response time is dependent on the issue reported and the time needed to be invested into the problem.

Option 2: Chat with the AI Generated Support

Click the blue message icon on the bottom right hand side of your PB page.



Need any help? Chat with one of our support representatives here!

Choose student, answer the first few prompted questions, then you'll be directed to the corresponding help articles!