Peer assessment is one of the most important process of learning in the University of the People with two aspects of learning; (1) rating and replying to the discussion forum and (2) peer assessments of Written Assignment of classmates. According to Rosa, Coutinho and Flores (2016), there are varieties of peer assessment methods using ICT technologies, and they regard the utilization of OPA (Online Peer Assessment) as a strong tool to enhance an assessment for learning.[[1]](#endnote-1) In University of the People, peer assessment brings the student to experience the opportunities of critical thinking, requiring students to have precise understanding of evaluation criteria and explanation for each assignment.

While peer assessment is helpful for students to sharpen their learning and understanding, students are likely to face challenges in both terms of giving feedbacks to classmates and receiving them from fellows. When giving feedbacks, feedbacks should start from gentle and timely manner tailored to each individual’s answer and values, not violating individual’s effort and attitude toward their own goals, which can be a big challenge.[[2]](#endnote-2) In case of receiving, a learner should take open-minded reflection to improve own performance, while it is really challenging for listeners to respond to negative feedbacks in a constructive way.[[3]](#endnote-3)

My strategy to assess written assignments will be based on fundamental behaviors. I am going to read through sentence to sentence, checking the format of writing, spelling or grammar. In addition, I will reflect the evaluation criteria to each point, and appropriately assess the score of my fellows’ work. But above all, my emphasis will be put on the uniqueness of values or the way of thinking that the assignment shows, which I think the most important thing. This is also applied to the case of discussion assignments.

1. Rosa, S. S., Coutinho, C. P., & Flores, M. A. (2016). Online Peer Assessment: Method and Digital Technologies. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, *228*, 418–423. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2016.07.064 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Hardavella, G., Aamli-Gaagnat, A., Saad, N., Rousalova, I., & Sreter, K. B. (2017). How to give and receive feedback effectively. *Breathe,* *13*(4), 327-333. doi:10.1183/20734735.009917 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Hardavella, G., Aamli-Gaagnat, A., Saad, N., Rousalova, I., & Sreter, K. B. (2017). How to give and receive feedback effectively. *Breathe,* *13*(4), 327-333. doi:10.1183/20734735.009917 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)