Using SPARK for self and peer assessment

A "how-to" guide

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How to access SPARK

■ To access SPARK, go to the following URL in your web browser:
http://spark.eng.uts.edu.au/uts

Login for the first time

Getting your password

❶Type student no.

❷Click "Submit"

Getting your password

- Your initial password will be sent to your UTS email address
- Use copy and paste to copy the email from the received email into the SPARK login screen (Note: it is CASE SENSITIVE)

Change your initial password

Click here (on your name)

Change your initial password

Click "Modify"

Change your initial password

Accounts - Mozilla Firefox

http://spark.eng.uts.edu.au/uts/accounts.php?userId=10101010

Stu Dent1 - logged in as Student

User Account

Account ID * : 10101010

Title :

First Name * : Stu

Preferred Name :

Middle Name :

Last Name * : Dent1

Faculty :

School :

Email * : 10101010@uts.edu.au
☐ Show to SPARK users

Status * : Active

New Password (6 - 10 characters) : ••••••••

Re-type Password : ••••••••

Subjects : Student for...
49013 - Managing IT in Engineering SPRING 2009

* denotes mandatory field

Save **Cancel / Close**

❶ Enter new password & then re-enter

❷ Click "Save"

Accessing subject & assessment task

SPARK PLUS
Self & Peer Assessment Resource Kit

1.0.0 RC24 **Feedback**

Hi Stu ,
Please select a task.

SELECT SUBJECT:
49013 Managing IT in Engineering SPRING 2009
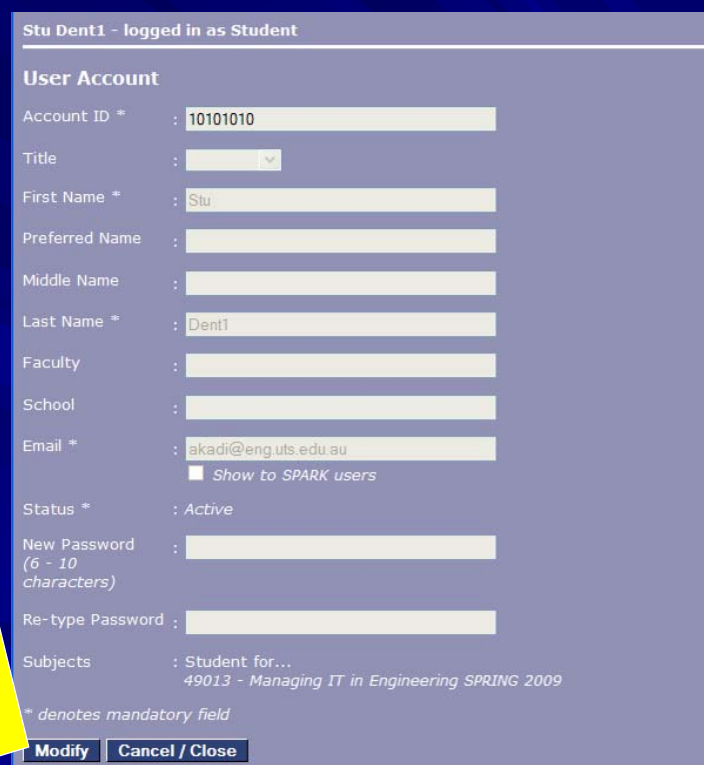
SELECT TASK:
- Select a Task -

Please select a task.

GROUP NAME:

SELECT PEERS to VIEW:

Logout

Logout

Select subject & task

You will see this screen…

What you have to do…

- **For each criteria:**
  - You will see a rating scale
  - Click on each scale where you think **you** rate in relation to other members in your group

Rating Scales

- Use the mouse to move the marker once it has been placed

marker

GROUPWORK
1. Ability to work with other people — WB BA AV AA WA
2. Ability to motivate other people — WB BA AV AA WA

Key for rating:
WB = Well Below Average
BA = Below Average
AV = Average
AA = Above Average
WA = Well Above Average

Complete your self assessment

SPARK PLUS
Self & Peer Assessment Resource Kit
1.0.0 RC24 Feedback

SELECT SUBJECT:
49013 Managing IT in Engineering SPRING 2009

SELECT TASK:
Ass2a

GROUP NAME:
Group A

Stu Dent1

Hi Stu ,
Due date: 29 Sep 2009 8:00pm
Instructor: Anthony Kadi

Period: Assessment

1. Select the subject in which you are rating self and peers.
2. Rate yourself first
3. Click each criteria to show or hide your peers to rate them according to the selected criteria

Key for rating:
WB = Well Below Average
BA = Below Average
AV = Average
AA = Above Average
WA = Well Above Average

Save   Logout

GROUPWORK
1. Ability to work with other people — WB BA AV AA WA
2. Ability to motivate other people — WB BA AV AA WA
3. Ability to overcome difficulties — WB BA AV AA WA
4. Ability to generate ideas — WB BA AV AA WA
5. Timely & enthusiastic participation in group activities — WB BA AV AA WA
6. Taking a fair share of the work — WB BA AV AA WA

rate all criteria

WRITING REPORT
1. Quality of work completed — WB BA AV AA WA
2. Work completed was appropriate to the group task — WB BA AV AA WA
3. Written work was supported by scholarly references (where appropriate) — WB BA AV AA WA
4. Written work was clearly structured — WB BA AV AA WA

Your ratings for you

Please note that your ratings will not be submitted to the database until you have assessed all your peers.

then click "Save"   Save   Logout

Continue or go back…

- **Ensure your ratings are honest and accurate, then click OK**
- **If you want to change your ratings, click Cancel and go back**
- **You can also change them later if you want to**

The page at http://spark.eng.uts.edu.au says:

In saving these ratings, I have tried to provide an honest assessment of Stu Dent1's contributions.

[OK]   [Cancel]

Now rate your peers …

Rate each student for each criteria

- Student 1 is now rating the other students
  - Student 1 feels student 2's ability to work with others is "below average"
  - Student 1 feels student 3's ability to work with others is well above average
  - Student 1 feels student 4's ability to work with others is average

1. Ability to work with other people		▼ Click to hide peers				
Stu Dent1		WB	BA	AV	AA	WA
Stu Dent2		WB	BA	AV	AA	WA
Stu Dent3		WB	BA	AV	AA	WA
Stu Dent4		WB	BA	AV	AA	WA

Complete the rating …

- Rate <u>all</u> students for <u>all</u> categories
- Ensure that no rating scales are blank
- Provide anonymous feedback at the bottom of the screen if you want to – try to make it constructive!
- Save your input before logging out (you can change it later if you want to)

▼ Hide Feedback for Stu Dent2 (755 characters left)
Student2 needs to be more timely with her work. I understand that she has other commitments, but we are all relying on her participation to complete the assignment. Perhaps she could set aside certain timeslots each week to work on this subject.

What happens next…

- Your peers then need to login and complete their own self assessment as well as their peer assessment (including their assessment of your abilities)
- You and/or your group members can change your/their ratings up until the close of the rating period
- When the rating period closes, SPARK will then calculate two numbers:
  - SPA: Self & Peer Assessment factor
  - SAPA: Self Assessment to Peer Assessment ratio

SPA

- Self & Peer Assessment factor
- It is calculated as follows:

$$SPA = \sqrt{\frac{\text{total ratings for individual group member}}{\text{average of total ratings for all group members}}}$$

- If your SPA > 1, your group members felt that your contribution or ability was above average for your team
- SPA < 1 → contribution/ability below average

SAPA

- Self assessment to peer assessment ratio
- It is calculated as follows:

$$SAPA = \sqrt{\frac{\text{self ratings for individual group member}}{\text{average of ratings for individual by peer group members}}}$$
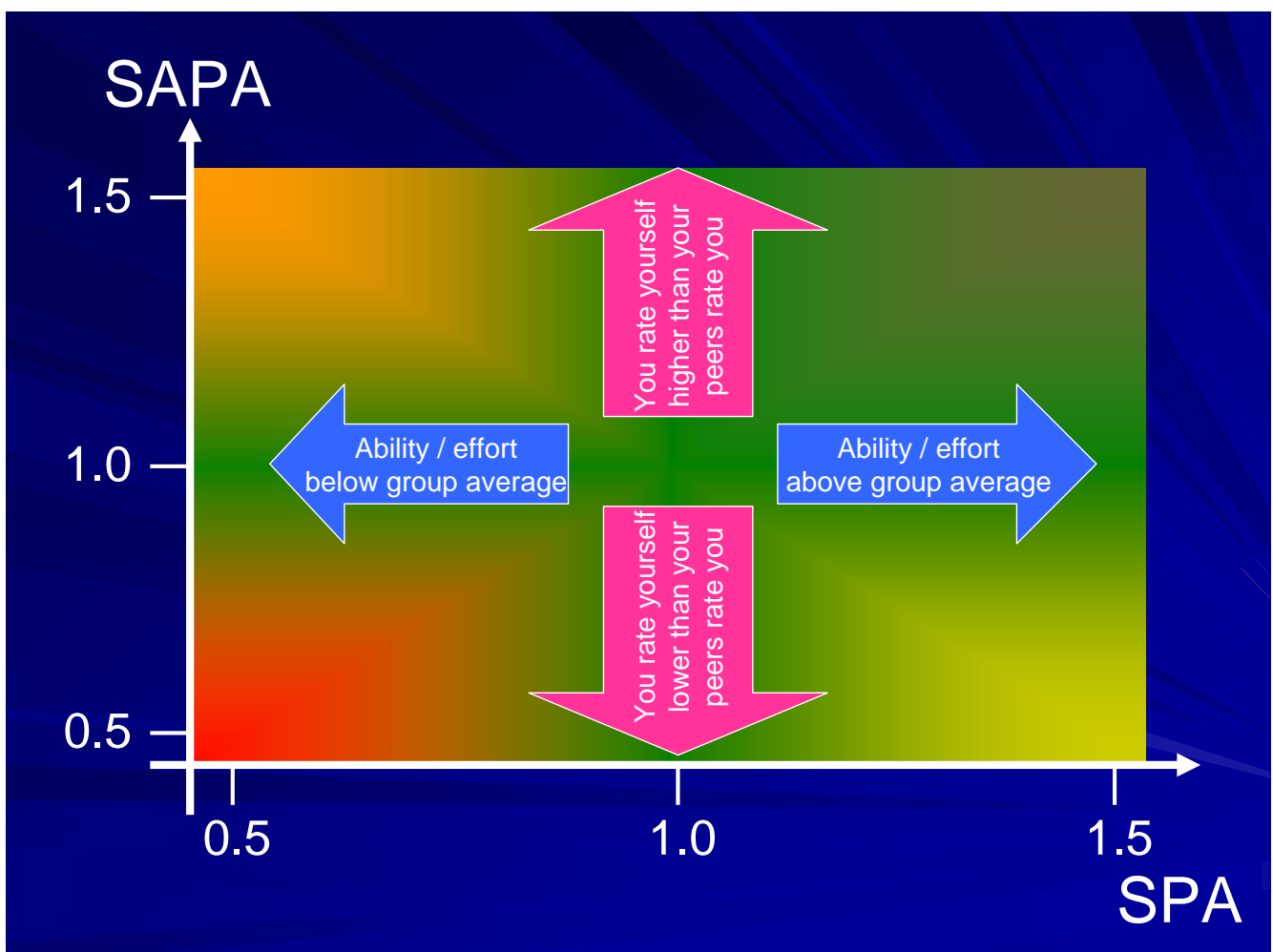
- If your SAPA < 1, your team peers on average rated your contribution higher than you rated yourself
- SAPA > 1, you rated your contribution as being higher than you were rated on average by your team peers

SPA → SAPA ↓	SPA < 1.0	SPA ≈ 1.0	SPA > 1.0
SAPA < 1.0	Your ability or contribution is below average but you rated yourself even lower than your peers rated you	Your ability or contribution is about average but you rated yourself lower than your peers rated you	Your ability or contribution is above average but you rated yourself lower than your peers rated you
SAPA ≈ 1.0	Your ability or contribution is below average & your self rating agrees with your peers	Your ability or contribution is about average & your self rating agrees with your peers	Your ability or contribution is above average & your self rating agrees with your peers
SAPA > 1.0	Your ability or contribution is below average and your peers rated you lower than you rated yourself!	Your ability or contribution is about average but you rated yourself more highly than your peers rated you	Your ability or contribution is above average but you rated your contribution higher than your peers rated you

The results from SPARK…

SPARK PLUS
Self & Peer Assessment Resource Kit

1.0.0 RC24 Feedback

SELECT SUBJECT:
49013 Managing IT in Engineering SPRING 2009
SELECT TASK:
Ass2a

GROUP NAME:
Group A

Hi Stu ,
Due date: 24 Apr 2009 12:20pm
Instructor: Anthony Kadi

Period: Post-Assessment

WELL DONE!

The period for rating your own and your team peers' contributions is now over.

The ratings from all your peers will be averaged with your self ratings and used to calculate your individual mark.

View formula used

Please consider this aggregated feedback to learn. Some questions you can ask yourself:

- Do I need to develop my evaluation skills further? (ie. how close were my peers ratings of me compared to my own ratings of myself and my contributions)
- Do I need to contribute differently in the future, either in the tasks allocated to me or to the way I interacted with team peers?
- Do I need to express contributions differently in the future, either my own or others?

Logout

GROUPWORK — SPA: 1.08 — SAPA: 1.01
1. Ability to work with other people — WB BA AV AA WA
2. Ability to motivate other people — WB BA AV AA WA
3. Ability to overcome difficulties — WB BA AV AA WA
4. Ability to generate ideas — WB BA AV AA WA
5. Timely & enthusiastic participation in group activities — WB BA AV AA WA
6. Taking a fair share of the work — WB BA AV AA WA

WRITING REPORT — SPA: 1.06 — SAPA: 0.85
1. Quality of work completed — WB BA AV AA WA
2. Work completed was appropriate to the group task — WB BA AV AA WA
3. Written work was supported by scholarly references (where appropriate) — WB BA AV AA WA
4. Written work was clearly structured — WB BA AV AA WA

Overall: WB BA AV AA WA

Overall ratings

Overall: SPA: 1.07
SAPA: 0.94
Mark: 63%

Feedback from your peers
Nice working with you

Self rating
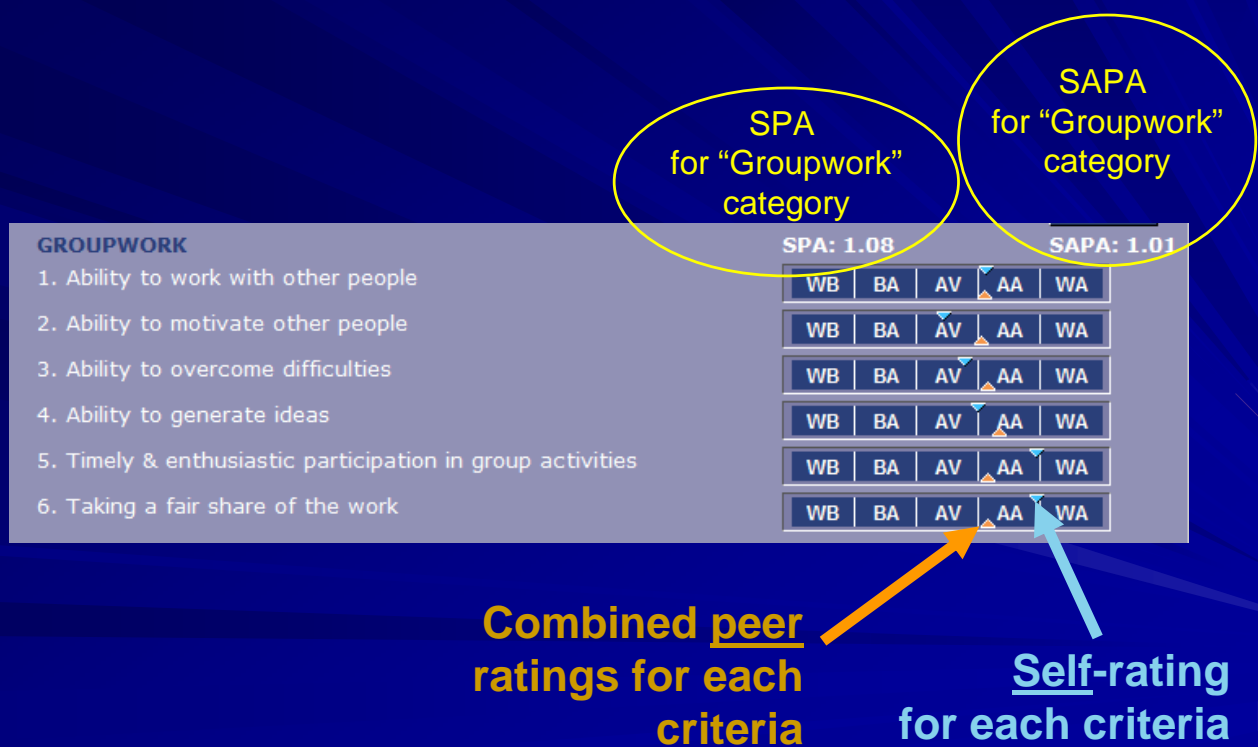Your average rating from peers
View my radar diagram

Breakdown of results

SPA for "Groupwork" category

SAPA for "Groupwork" category

Combined peer ratings for each criteria

Self-rating for each criteria
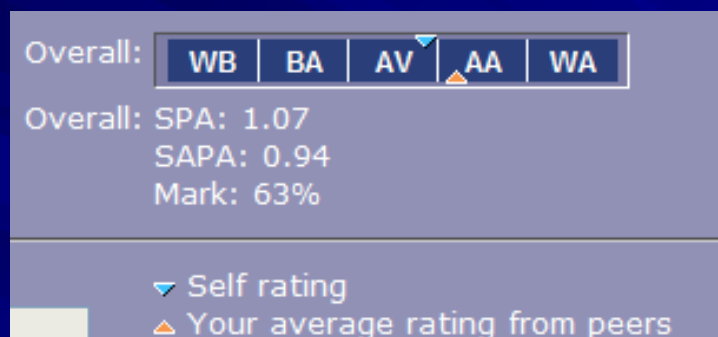
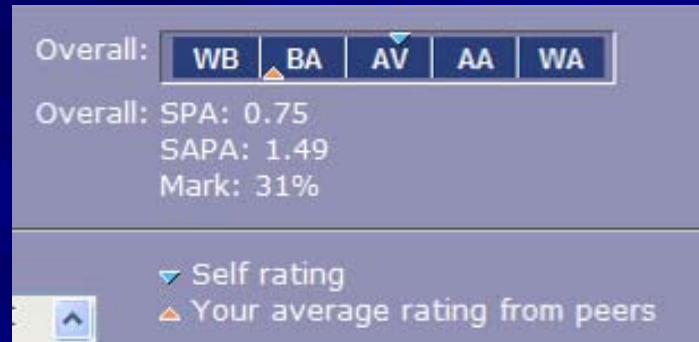# Overall results (student 1)…

- Average of all criteria in all categories

- This student's ability or contribution was slightly above the average contribution for their team. Furthermore they rated themselves lower than their peers rated him/her

Overall results (student 2)

- Student 2's result paint a different story…

- Peers felt contribution was significantly below average but student 2 thought it was average! Overall contribution is below average SPA < 1

How can SPARK help you?

- SPARK can help you in several ways:
  - The criteria help guide you on what you should focus on with your groupwork & the assessment task
  - Feedback from peers helps you to understand what areas need improvement
  - Your SAPA gives you feedback on your self assessment skills

SPARK at UTS

- SPARK was developed at UTS by Dr. Keith Willey from UTS:Engineering
- It has been used in many subjects at UTS in Engineering & other faculties
- Also used at a number of other universities in Australia and overseas as well as by several companies to assess teamwork
- Overall feedback is very positive for staff and students