My Favorite Assignment

Assignment Instructions

I Bet I'm Right: A Professional Tone "Gambling" Game

Jill Huang
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign USA

Playing the game:
I Bet I'm Right: A Professional Tone "Gambling" Game

In round 1 of the game, students work in small groups to evaluate how well a sample sentence demonstrates the proper professional tone for the given context. Students place their bet (fake money) on a betting sheet with "Needs Revision" or "OK" on it. The instructor "pays out" for correct answers or "collects" for incorrect answers.

In round 2 students continue in their small groups, but this time have a chance to revise the "Needs Revision" items from round 1, which are displayed one at a time. This time students are betting (with fake money) on how confident they are in their revisions. The revised sentences can be typed or handwritten but must demonstrate proper professional tone for the given context, retain the original meaning, and be grammatically correct. The instructor is the judge in this round and pays our or collects as needed.

At the end of the game, students may "cash in" for class-related prizes.

Evaluating students' learning

During the game, instructors can instantly evaluate understanding of the topic through students' answers – in this case, how they bet – in round 1. Each sentence in round 1 should demonstrate / fail to demonstrate the rules for professional tone specified in the course materials students reviewed prior to class. These guidelines / "rules" may vary based on the material instructors use in their course.

In round 2 of the game, instructors can further evaluate understanding and application of the topic by instantly reviewing student output. Each revised sentence should follow the guidelines / "rules" for professional tone specified in the course materials students reviewed prior to class as well as demonstrate correct grammar and retain the meaning of the original sentence.

Additional outcomes are possible in the form of homework assignments.