

## ***Developing Good Writers: Show Them How!***

### **Improve students' understanding of academic discipline norms**

- Model it.** Provide models illustrating good writing in your field. Highlight organization, argumentation, and critical analysis.
- Click it.** Include questions about the clarity and organization of written work when designing questions for clicker responses.
- Compare it.** Compare articles on the same subject written for academic journals with those written for the popular press.

### **Communicate clear performance expectations**

- Provide students with assessment criteria in advance.
- Use rubrics. For a handout on developing rubrics, visit CAID's tips site: [www.smu.ca/administration/caid/dev\\_tips.html](http://www.smu.ca/administration/caid/dev_tips.html).
- Create benchmarks for various levels of performance.
- Use examples to illustrate A,B, and C range grade performance.
- Try a combination of these ideas.
- Repeat as necessary!

### **Incorporate peer assessment**

- Create teams in which students discuss each other's written work from the **reader's perspective** before making revisions. Ask them to discuss the organization and argumentation of the work.
- Try a peer review program or have students exchange feedback electronically through Blackboard discussion groups.

### **Resources**

- Boud, D. (2003). *Enhancing learning through self assessment*. New York: Routledge.  
(Available at the CAID Resource Library)
- Kastman Breuch, L. (2004). *Virtual peer review*. New York: State University of New York Press.  
(Available at The Writing Centre)