



What is peerScholar?

- peerScholar is a powerful online pedagogical tool that helps develop your students' critical- and creative-thinking skills.
- peerScholar supports deep learning via peer-assessment
- peerScholar facilitates this through a series of three phases: creating, assessing, and reflecting/revising.

Phase 1: Creating

- The assignment is created by you the teacher to fit the teaching goals of your course, and it can take many forms—a written response to an open-ended question, a case evaluation, or any sort of multimedia creation.
- All students submit an assignment into the tool.

Phase 2: Assessing

- Students must review their peers' work and provide them with an evaluation and some critical feedback.
- During this phase, students can develop their critical-thinking skills and increase their ability to perform quality-based discrimination

Phase 3: Reflecting/Revising

- Students receive their peers' evaluations and written feedback.
- Depending on your preference as an instructor, students may be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit their work based on the feedback.

Unique Aspects about peerScholar:

- It is a revision tool
- It is research based
- It can stand-alone
- It can use any multimedia
- It contains a crowd-sourced library

Major Pedagogical Benefits of peerScholar:

- Works in many types of class environments - It is easy to submit assignments in peerScholar, even in a flipped classroom
- PeerScholar is an enhanced Student Experience - it reflects an educational enhancement over the standard approach of having experts doing all of the grading and feedback giving.
- Active Perspective on Learning - it puts students in the position of deciding what work is good (or bad) and why. This sort of active perspective on learning is more powerful than a teacher lecturing or listing the features of a well written essay.
- Timely, Significant Feedback - peerScholar's automated system allows assignments to be completed in a condensed time period, or for as long as you'd like. Students receive feedback on their work not long after composing it. This timeliness and power of feedback supports a strong learning environment.
- Broad Scope of Assignments – As long as the target is something that can be presented digitally, and the "answer" could be submitted digitally, the peerScholar system will support it.

peerScholar facts:

- Used in over 150 schools in North America
- Used in both secondary education and college/university education
- Licensed for use at Canada's top university (University of Toronto)
- Used in a wide range of subject areas including: psychology, English, math, science, geography, history, technology, astronomy, and many more.