

Peer Review Using Canvas

In WRTC 103 courses, I set up my assignments as follows (example of first two assignment sequences):

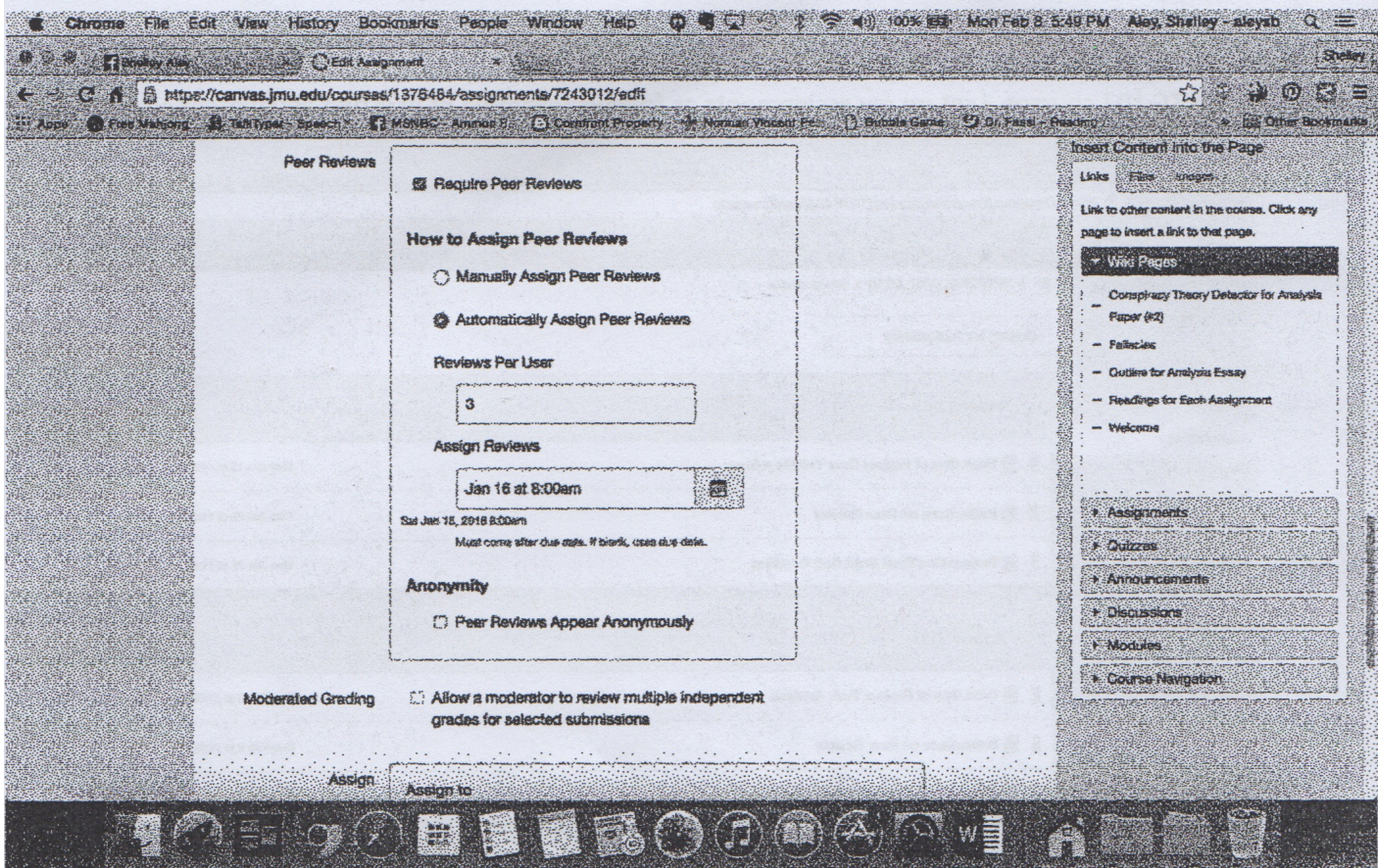
The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS interface for the course WRTC103_0067_SP18. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Announcements, Syllabus, Assignments, Discussions, Grades, People, Attendance, Pages, Canvas Modules, Canvas Users, Pages, Assignments, Courses, Collaborative, JMU Libraries, and Settings. The main content area shows the 'Assignments' page with a search bar and buttons for '+ Group', '+ Assignment', and a gear icon. The assignments are organized into three project sequences:

Project	Assignment	Due Date	Points
Project One	Draft One of Project One: Tell Me a Story	Due Jan 15 at 11:59pm	10 pts
	Reflections on Peer Review	Due Jan 20 at 11:59pm	5 pts
	Project One Final Draft Soft Deadline	Due Jan 22 at 11:59pm	100 pts
Project Two	Draft One of Project Two: Analysis	Due Feb 5 at 11:59pm	10 pts
	Reflections on Peer Review	Due Feb 8 at 11:59pm	5 pts
	Project Two Final Draft Soft Deadline	Due Feb 12 at 11:59pm	100 pts
Project Three: Argument for a Neutral Audience			

In the above figure, I show assignments 1 and 2. I have three main parts to each assignment: draft 1 with peer review, reflection on peer review, and final draft. When they turn in the first draft (in file format in Canvas), they receive feedback from me in conference and online.

Canvas will let you manually set up the peer review by choosing peers for students and pairing them yourself, or you can choose to let Canvas automatically assign peer review at a designated time.

Students turn in the first draft of their paper by submitting it in Canvas in the first draft link. I have chosen for them to upload an electronic file. My deadlines are set at 11:59 pm. If they do not meet this deadline, they will not be able to participate in peer review (or at least if they have not submitted by 7:59 am). I leave a few hours between the paper deadline and the start of peer review in case there is a glitch in Canvas. Papers uploaded after 11:59 pm and before 7:59 am will be marked as "late" by Canvas, but will not be cut off from peer review. At 8:00 am, peer review kicks in, because I have set it up to assign peer review automatically. I enable peer review in the edit assignment area as follows (see the next figure).



When peer review kicks in at 8:00 am the morning after the first draft was due, the students access peers' papers from the assignment area where they turned in their paper. Three names will be listed on the right of their screen view. By clicking on each name, they can access the paper, read it, and then leave in-text comments, overall comments, and comments in a rubric I have set up for the assignment.

The instructions for peer review include a statement about meeting the deadline, or they may not be able to participate in peer review, thus losing points. I also instruct them about how to do peer review using the following:

Peer Review has kicked in as of 8 am this morning.

To do the peer review, go back into the place where you uploaded your own work and on the right-hand side of the screen you will see three names. Click on one and it will take you to an area where you can do peer review. You need to click on View Feedback and not the file link to see your peer's work in Canvas where you can use the feedback tools. The link on the right is the View feedback link. The other link (the one on the left) just opens the file outside of Canvas, and you will not be able to do peer review on it.

Once you click on View Feedback, the peer's work will open in the area in Canvas, and you have three things to do.

First, read through the work and then go back and read it while adding comments. On the toolbar on the top of the space where you are doing peer review, you will be able to click on Comments and then use

the pull-down menu to choose the options you want for commenting. You can also highlight and add text if you like.

After you leave comments, look in the upper right-hand corner of the peer review area and click on the link to open the rubric for this assignment "View Rubric." The rubric enables you to view the assignment requirements and leave comments. You can even leave a numerical score (although this will not affect the peer's grade) for the work. Be sure to use the save button on the rubric when you are finished with it.

Finally, on the right-hand side of the screen, you should leave overall comments on the peer's work. In this area, you can give them your overall impressions and suggestions. Be sure to click the save button.

Once students complete peer review, I have them complete the second part of the overall assignment, reflection on peer review, where they follow the instructions below:

After you complete your peer review of your peers' papers, you use this area to reflect on the papers you read and the comments you made. Consider the following:

- Did your peers complete drafts that addressed the assignment?
- What did you see that you really liked in the papers? What did the writers do that you found especially effective?
- What did you see that you thought needed more work or was not done well enough yet? Were there things that just didn't seem to work well for you as a reader?
- What questions did you have about the writing that were not answered in the pieces you read? Was something unclear or incomplete? What would you like to see developed more so that it is made clearer?
- Did you learn anything from reading your peers' papers? Did you get ideas for how you might improve your own piece? What, if any, things do you plan to do in the revision of your own work that may have been influenced by your doing this peer review?

I use this area to have students reflect on the peer reviews they gave and what they learned from reading their peers' papers. I find that this is important reflection, and I use points from these reflections to talk about writing issues they raise in class the next time we meet. Students start out a little reluctant at first, but they get more and more involved throughout the semester. I also have them talk in class before peer review about what kinds of feedback they would like to receive from their peers.

Students revise their papers and then turn in a second draft in the third area I have set up in canvas. In the first area, they receive points for the first draft. In the second area (reflections) they receive points for their peer review and reflections, and in the third area, they receive an overall grade for the final draft.