



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

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Examples from Australian universities

Third Year Students and the Peer Review Process: *Experimental Animal Behaviour*

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Broad discipline area:

Natural and Physical Sciences

- Zoology

Year level:

- Third year undergraduate

TRN strategy:

- Building a small scale research activity into assignments

Teaching and learning context:

- Assignment/Assessment
- Online/Blended Learning
- Curriculum Design

Brief description of the initiative:

The characteristics of the *Experimental Animal Behaviour* course are detailed in the example Zoology 1. This example further examines the incorporation of peer review for the students involved in this subject. Peer review is often used in the research process, for example, in grant applications and journal article submissions. This academic, and his colleagues, have introduced the peer review activity into a number of subjects in their discipline. The student's learning experience is therefore shaped by a common research experience. A software package known as *PRAZE* was developed to manage this activity online. Students are expected to submit their report for review from two fellow students and a supervisor. Students must submit a 'letter to the editor' piece commenting on how they responded to the reviewers' comments. Students are expected to constructively critique the report of another student, and the reviews are also graded as an incentive for students to perform to the best of their ability in this task. The online review includes both structured yes/no comments and also fields for comment.

For further details:

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