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ComPAIR: A Flexible Teaching Technology for Facilitating Peer Evaluation

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We introduce ComPAIR, an open source, peer feedback and teaching technology developed at UBC that provides students a safe, flexible environment to develop the skill of evaluating another person's work, and in turn, receive evaluations from their peers. We highlight its usage in a 300 level physics class.

The effectiveness of peer feedback can be limited by the relative newness of students to both the course content and the skills involved in providing good feedback. ComPAIR makes use of students' inherent ability and desire to compare: according to the psychological principle of comparative judgement, novices are much better at choosing the "better" of two answers than they are at giving those answers an absolute score. By scaffolding peer feedback through comparisons, ComPAIR provides an engaging, simple, and safe environment that supports two distinct outcomes: 1) students learn how to assess their own work and that of others in a way that 2) facilitates the learning of subtle aspects of course content through the act of comparing.

To explore ComPAIR check out our sandbox site: https://compairdemo.ctlt.ubc.ca/
Details on how to set up ComPAIR at your own institution can be found here: https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/compair/

Authors: CHARBONNEAU, James (University of British Columbia); Prof. POTTER, Tiffany (UBC); ENGLUND, Letitia (UBC); LUO, Pan (UBC)

Presenter: CHARBONNEAU, James (University of British Columbia)

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