Critical friends
- A way of enhancing teaching quality in academic libraries

**How we started**

Organized a meeting for those interested in critical friends

Learned about feedback (giraffe language, nonviolent communication) and reflected on our pedagogical basic view

Formulated a common checklist

Divided the group into pairs

**Prerequisites**

A tolerant and non-threatening atmosphere in the group

Willingness to develop as a teacher

Willingness to help a colleague to develop as a teacher

Openness to new ideas

1. Individual reflection on one’s own teaching methods

2. Pre-meeting - Agreement on which parts should be observed

3. Teaching - Observer observes

4. Follow-up meeting - Observer gives feedback on preagreed areas

5. Improved teaching - Individual reflection and change

**Benefits**

The chance to reflect on one’s own teaching

Enhanced knowledge about teaching methods and new perspectives on teaching

Tips about what can be improved in one’s own teaching on basis of areas agreed on in advance

Enhanced collegial cooperation.

Strengthened cooperation across organizational units

Improvement of teaching quality through reflective practice

**Further developments in the spring 2013**

Theme areas

Group feedback

References:


