



Instructor Spotlight:
**Leveraging Online Peer Learning to Promote
Human Skills in the Age of AI**

Dr. Nicholas Duran

ASU Arizona State
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Cognitive Science



With 200 students per semester in locations around the world, Nick Duran relied on Course Assistants (CA's) to do much of the grading on written assignments in his PSY 360 Cognitive Science online course. Because CA's often lacked domain-specific knowledge and the large volume of assignments, feedback was surface-level, and CA's required guidance on many documents. By implementing Peerceptiv, Nick leverages peer assessment to motivate his students to improve their writing, while generating more specific feedback. Using Peerceptiv's combination grading, CA's now act as a fourth reviewer for half the essays. This allows Duran to focus on further identifying opportunities to promote student growth.



Nick Duran

Associate Professor, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arizona State University

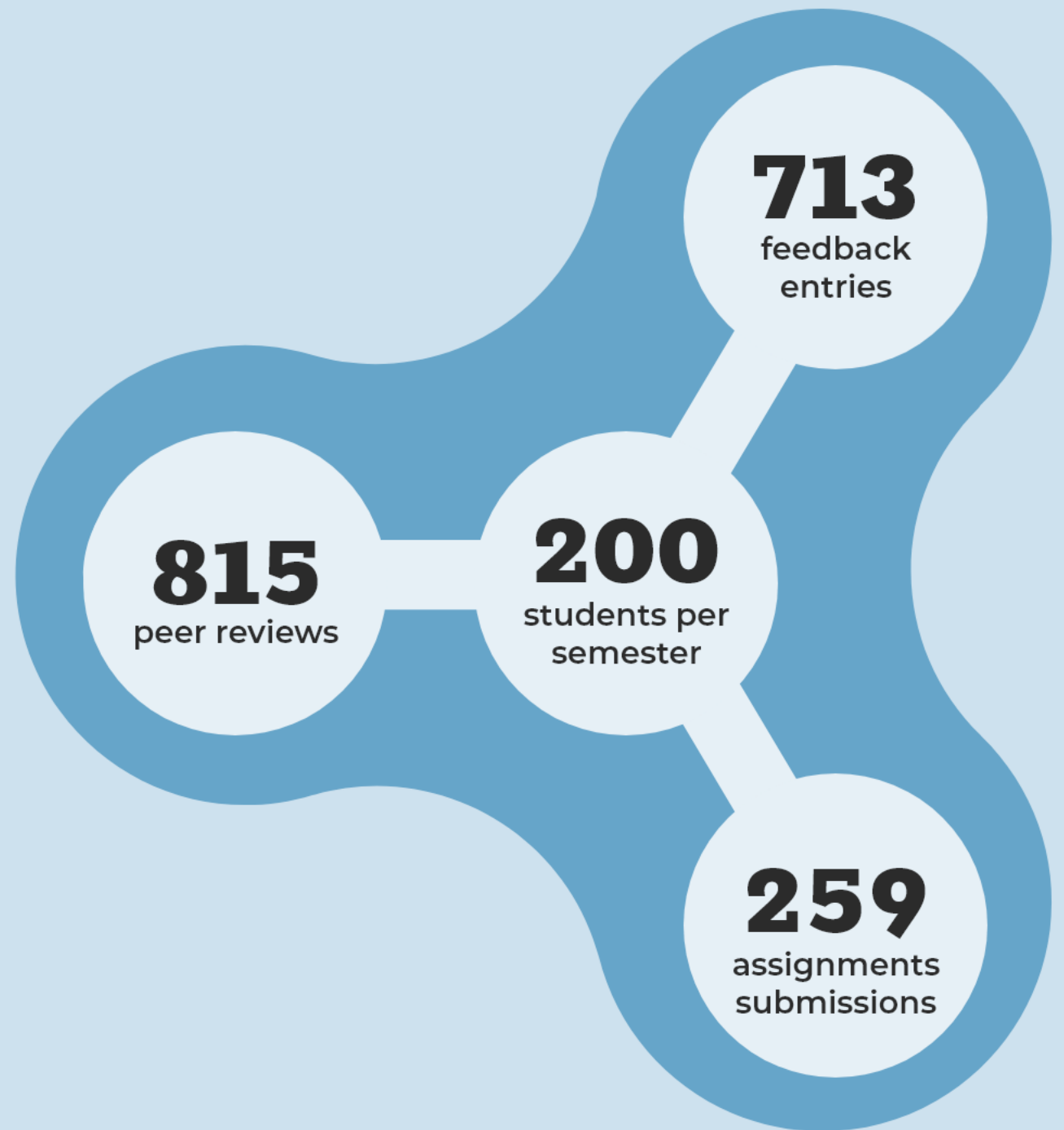
Ph.D. Cognitive Psychology,
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Motivate Students to Success



Just the idea of being assessed by your peers gives an added motivation that I wasn't seeing when the essays were assessed only by CA's. They're willing to put in the extra time and effort to make sure they understand what's required of them because they want positive feedback from their peers. I've been able to introduce complexity into the essay that I wouldn't otherwise be able to. They really rise to the challenge and I've been pleasantly surprised.

Each individual in Duran's class completes two essays per semester. In the first essay, students explore foundational concepts of cognition, building arguments that they will explore more deeply in essay two.



A photograph of three people in a meeting, overlaid with a blue tint. On the left, a man with glasses and a beard is smiling, with his hands clasped. In the center, a man is holding a pen to his chin, looking towards the woman on the right. The woman is also smiling and looking back at the man. They are sitting around a table with laptops and papers.

Using peer feedback, students are able to improve issues with content, organization, and clarity for the second essay. Requiring students to review multiple peers according to Duran's rubric, ensures students have a thorough understanding of the complex assignment prompts. Leveraging peer feedback has enabled Duran to introduce more complexity into his assessments- one of the ways he's "AI-proofing" his course.

Ensure Critical Thinking

Peer review, in combination with tighter guidelines for citations, allows Duran to feel more confident students won't be able to outsource writing to AI chatbots. During a peer review, students learn by reading peers' work and providing a high level of feedback. Reading and responding to peers' work ensures students think critically about course content. Plus, with Peerceptiv, research-validated algorithms score students on the accuracy and helpfulness of their reviews. Without a thorough understanding of course material, feedback will not be as helpful or accurate.



"I find it's helping me with a problem I know a lot of people are experiencing. How do I assign writing where I can have some confidence that an AI isn't performing all the thinking for the student?"

More Than What's on the Page



Upload

Students anonymously upload their essay to Peerceptiv



Review

Students anonymously assess three peer documents, with CA's acting as a fourth reviewer for half of the submissions



Feedback

Students hold each other accountable by evaluating the reviews received on their own work



Grades

Peerceptiv generates valid and reliable peer scores based on the quality of the submission, as well as the accuracy and helpfulness of reviews given

"The assignment is not just what they've written on the page, but also how they're doing the assessment- their accuracy and helpfulness in giving feedback. That helps alleviate some of the worries about these AI technologies. If they don't understand the material, their accuracy score is going to suffer."



Nick uses a unique form of grading in Peerceptiv, which allows for more flexibility. CA's review half of the submissions in each assignment, ensuring students receive feedback from a CA at least once during the semester. The CAs provide an in-depth review on the same rubric as the peer scorers. CA reviews are weighted in the Peerceptiv algorithm which normalizes all grades.



“Before, there was a lack of confidence in how to provide feedback. I spent a lot of time doing the same thing as the course assistants. Peerceptiv allows the CA's to see the peer reviews as an example, which gives them more certainty in assessment. I get fewer flagged essays, so it saves a lot of time.”



What I really like is all the other stuff I can build into the assignment with Peerceptiv. It's not about just writing. It's also getting practice giving constructive criticism. How to receive constructive criticism and integrate it, I've found, is a skill a lot of students don't have exposure to.

Giving and receiving feedback is an essential skill for graduate school and beyond. Anonymous online peer review allows Nick to facilitate these exchanges, stepping in when conflicts arise. With Peerceptiv's flagging system, Duran is able to see any mean-spirited comments. He uses these conflicts as further learning opportunities for his students.



"Sometimes students will receive feedback that is critical, but in good-faith. Some students don't respond well to that. Those moments of conflict are great opportunities. A lot of these students want to go to graduate school. Or, they're going to go into industry and have a boss. In any job that they have, there are going to be opportunities to give and receive constructive criticism. How to deal with that graciously, in a way that will improve you, is a skill. Being resistant is missing out on an opportunity for growth. **I really try to stress that to the students and they get to see it in real-time. I didn't realize that was a lesson I was going to be able to help people through.**

Embrace the research-driven benefits of Peerceptiv. Add a peer assessment step to any existing assignment.

- Motivate academic and career success
- Prevent AI from doing all the thinking
- Provide meaningful, in-depth feedback

Contact info@peerceptiv.com to add an assignment today.