

AN OVERVIEW OF CALIBRATED PEER REVIEW

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OVERVIEW

Calibrated Peer Review (CPR, <https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu>) is an online program that enables frequent writing assignments even in large classes and can reduce the time an instructor spends reading and assessing student writing.

Stage 1: Text entry. Students write an essay in response to the assignment given, then upload their work to their CPR course webpage.

Stage 2: Calibration and review: Students read and evaluate three essays based on a series of questions (both the calibration essays and the questions are written by the instructor). In order to "pass" this stage, the student must answer a stated proportion of the questions correctly (thus, "calibrating" their ability to assess the quality of the writing.) After students pass the calibration stage, they read and evaluate three of their peers' essays (essays are exchanged randomly and anonymously). Finally, each student evaluates their own writing in light of what they have learned through this process.

Stage 3: Results: Students are given a grade based on the quality of their own writing (calculated as the average score assigned by three classmates), their performance on the calibration portion of the assignment, their performance on the peer review portion, and their self-evaluation. The weighting of these four factors relative to each other is determined by the instructor for each assignment.

CPR offers instructors the choice of creating their own writing assignments or using the CPR assignment library.



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Touring a CPR assignment End

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Step 4: Performing calibrations

Intro When Stage 2 begins, you must read three example texts called calibration essays and answer a series of questions for each.

During this calibration process, your ability to effectively review texts based on the assignment topic is being evaluated.

Below is a screen capture of the calibration interface. Note that the "Calibration 1" link in the CPR Stages menu is highlighted. Note also that the "Source Material" page is still available, but that the "Text Entry" page is not.

Calibrations	Max. % Correct	Min. % Correct	Max. Rating	Overall Grade
Calibration 1	100%	100%	1	Mastered
Calibration 2	80%	100%	1	Mastered
Calibration 3	100%	100%	1	Mastered

View from the student "tour" of CPR, explaining how students perform the calibration portion of a CPR assignment.

Touring a CPR assignment End

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Step 5: Viewing calibration results

Intro After completing the calibrations, you then view your calibration results to see how well you did on each calibration.

Below is a screen capture of the calibration results interface. Note that the "Calibrations Results" link in the CPR Stages menu is highlighted, and that the "Calibrations" link is no longer available.

Calibrations	Max. % Correct	Min. % Correct	Max. Rating	Overall Grade
Calibration 1	100%	100%	1	Mastered
Calibration 2	80%	100%	1	Mastered
Calibration 3	100%	100%	1	Mastered

Questions	Answers					
	Calibration 1		Calibration 2		Calibration 3	
	Inst.	You	Inst.	You	Inst.	You
1. Does the essay have a descriptive topic sentence? (Does the first sentence of the essay accurately introduce the subject of the entire essay?)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
2. Are there at least three reasons given to support the use of SI in the scientific community?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Image from the CPR student tour, with a view of the calibration results students will see when they receive feedback on their calibration performance.

SPONSORS

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- Biology Department
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BENEFITS

- Gives students practice writing
- Students gain experience analyzing writing
- Valuable tool for students who learn by example

TECHNOLOGY USED

- Calibrated Peer Review



LIMITATIONS

- No revision process integrated into the program
- Substantial start-up time for instructor and students
- Runs on "CPR time"