

PEER AWARDS

Purpose

Peer Awards are an effective strategy to emphasize the importance of collaboration and expression – a key component of the Acting for Film and Television program. The awards encourage students to see themselves beyond their own perceptions to recognize that their decisions in their classroom work can impact, detract, and/or inspire others. The awards help students to recognize that their participation, their professionalism, and their work has value to themselves but can also encourage an environment for others to do the same.

Overview

The Peer Award concept is used at the end of a semester in a course where students have collaborated in partners and groups on multiple projects. Introducing the awards at the end of the first semester promotes positive behaviour choices and brave work in future semesters of the program. Students receive a ballot form with four categories applicable to their work and choose a peer that stands out in each category. These categories are Collaboration, Growth, Work Ethic, and Work Outcome. Students are encouraged to reflect on these categories and nominate peers. The entries are tabulated and in the final class, awards are handed out. There is the option to include honorable mentions in a category or ties if the numbers require it.

Context

Lori was inspired to integrate a peer award after attending professional development conferences on teaching and learning. The Peer Award has been effectively used in both face-to-face and online courses with smaller class sizes but can be easily adapted to fit different course contexts that utilize collaboration.

Impact

The Peer Awards foster positivity and growth opportunities for students in the class. Many students who receive the Peer Award feel validated and appreciate the opportunity to be congratulated on the things they are doing right in their program.