

**Small Group Feedback Session for
Thomas Andreas Leibundgut
The Romans
(CLASSICS 84)
Friday, May 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**

The student small group method of teaching evaluation has been in use at Stanford since the spring of 1980. It is a procedure initiated by the instructor and done in his or her absence during approximately 20 minutes of a class period.

During this time, a trained interviewer asks the students the following three questions:

1. What is going well in this section and contributes to your learning?
2. What, if anything, could use improvement, and what specific suggestions would you make for change?
3. What can you, as learners, do to improve your experience in section?

If the class is very small, the students are interviewed as a whole; if large, the students are divided into groups of three to six. For this evaluation, the class of 11 students was interviewed in four groups of 2-4 students.

This method has been found to yield very specific and useful information from students. The results of the evaluation are discussed with the instructor in a private session afterward, and the evaluator and the instructor consider what changes in the class, if any, seem appropriate.

The results of this session are as follows (all the answers were unanimous unless otherwise noted with the approximate percentage of students who agreed with that item).

- 1) *What is going well in this class and contributes to your learning?*
 - Thomas cares about our learning
 - Thomas is likeable and approachable
 - Having us read beforehand and write responses helps us read more thoroughly [91% agreed]
 - Thomas reviews important points together as a class [82% agreed]
- 2) *What could use improvement? If not already obvious, what specific suggestions would you make for change?*
 - Thomas could spend more time reviewing and explaining big assignments. Specifically, a rubric for big assignments and/or more examples (such as examples of research topics) would be useful.
 - Thomas could provide confirmation of receipt and feedback on students' weekly responses [91% agreed].
 - It would be helpful for Thomas to lecture more with group discussion afterwards, as opposed to the student presentations [64% agreed].
 - It would be helpful if more content was covered in class [36% agreed].

- 3) *What can you, as students, do to make this course even more successful?*
Did not have time to complete this section.

Facilitator: Rebecca Gleit
VPTL Graduate Teaching Consultant