

**Small Group Feedback Session for
Thomas Andreas Leibundgut
The Romans
(CLASSICS 84)
Friday, May 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.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 12 students was interviewed in four groups of 3 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 has clear expectations and gives clear explanations.
 - Thomas is organized and prepared for section; the outline is helpful.
 - The pacing of the section is easy to manage.
 - Thomas has a good sense of humor.
 - The section is discussion-oriented [83% agree]
- 2) *What could use improvement? If not already obvious, what specific suggestions would you make for change?*
 - Thomas could contribute more by helping to direct the discussion.
 - Thomas could address at least one student-submitted discussion question each week [92% agree]
 - Thomas could provide clearer guidelines for the depth expected on weekly writing assignments [92% agree]
- 3) *What can you, as students, do to make this course even more successful?*
 - We can know the readings better.

- We prepare better for section and can bring more questions.
- We can try harder to extend the discussions [75% agree]

Facilitator: Rebecca Gleit
VPTL Graduate Teaching Consultant