

**From:** Adendorff, Hanelie, Dr <hja@sun.ac.za>  
**Sent:** 22 April 2013 08:03  
**To:** Jacobs, Ed <epj@sun.ac.za>  
**Subject:** FW: Feedback required Prof Jacobs

Hello Dr Adendorff

I am currently a student in Prof Jacobs class and I think the teaching criteria is very good. It forces the student to go read and prepare for the lecture, and at the same time forcing them to study. Without reading your work, you are totally lost in the Prof's classes and as a result guaranteed to fail. therefore this makes the student work even harder for the classes and their performance as the other members in your group expect you to have an input into the work. Pre-reading which is encouraged by the way of teaching in his classes plays a major role in making the students focus more in class and the questions asked test your knowledge every single lecture and somehow it shows how much work one still has to do. Individually, I think it has really helped me and each time I go to class, I feel at ease because I work on problem every time and discuss it with my fellow group mates. It has made my participation, mainly in the chemistry class increase and I am fully awake and working. I am a person who finds it not very easy to say anything or contribute in class but the way we learn chemistry reduces the formality and the teacher to student way of learning and gets every student participating in the discussions.

I think our class is generally gaining a lot from these, but again that is my personal view; there are students who are against group work. They feel that as much as it is good, it has been taken too far, there is now nowhere that one gets to work and focus on their own work and they are forced to work with a number of different people, forcing them to try to understand and develop a working relationship with them. It should be taken into account that some other students prefer to work on their own and should not be deprived of this privilege. One important point one student made was that, in the EDP program, a lot of this group work is done and at the end of the day, when the student gets to main stream, there is no group work but they have to now start working on their own, and somehow that means this program was a waste of time as it did not really prepare them for the mainstream.

I will also have to state it though that group work is a lot of work and one has to try hard to make the group work. You do get members that do not work and are always not ready for the class or tutorial. In a way, this makes one think that they would perform much more better as an individual. It is very upsetting to work hard and get your work ready and at the end of the day one member in the group shows up without doing their work.

I hope my feedback goes a long way in helping your survey.

Thanks