

SPARK

An online learning resource that instructors can use to help students succeed with academic reading, writing and library research. While students can use it independently, tailored and intentional integration of SPARK by instructors in their classrooms and in designing assignments can meet with greater success.

Teaching with SPARK: The Faculty Module

This section offers instructors tips, strategies and resources for integrating SPARK within courses and assignments.

www.yorku.ca/spark/faculty

Faculty Section Table of Contents

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- 6 Guidelines for Using SPARK
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SPARK Modules

- ▶ 13 modules - each on a specific topic
- ▶ Each module takes 8-10 minutes to review core content
- ▶ Content organized around the process of completing a written assignment
- ▶ Modules can be used selectively and in any order to teach specific skills in course contexts.
- ▶ Access at <http://www.yorku.ca/spark>

Getting Started

Understanding the assignment
Time management
Academic integrity
Choosing a topic
Books, journals and more

Exploring

Gathering & noting ideas
Research strategies
Effective reading strategies
Essay structure

Pulling it Together

Creating bibliographies
Writing strategies
Revising your arguments
Essay editing

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SPARK
Faculty
Module

Teaching with SPARK: Using the Modules



The SPARK Faculty Module describes how each module can teach students specific skills:

www.yorku.ca/spark/faculty

Offers tips and advice on using each module in courses, including:

- Suggested timing for content introduction
- Ideas for supplementary explanation or presentation by instructors to reinforce learning
- Connections and sequencing of content in different modules

SPARK Resources

- ▶ Assign SPARK resources to build student skills
- ▶ SPARK's 36 resources include checklists, guidelines, worksheets and activities

Resources are available to students as PDF documents.

Resources

- Peer Review Guide

Look for the red Resources box in the top right-hand corner of each SPARK Module.

Instructors can access MS Word versions of SPARK resources and modifications are encouraged to increase relevance to specific course contexts. See: bit.ly/1MMPSQ6

Teaching with SPARK Using the Resources

For each of the 36 SPARK resources find information about:

- Skills addressed
- Suggested uses
- Feedback/evaluation

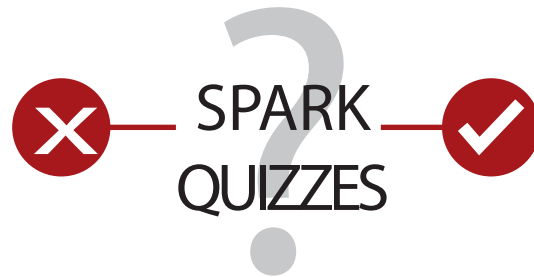
Resources

- Instructors' Guides
- Quizzes
- Student Help

Look for the "Instructors' Guides," in the blue Resources box. See Faculty Module: www.yorku.ca/spark/faculty

SPARK Quizzes

- ▶ Test student on knowledge of SPARK Module content
- ▶ Available for each of the 13 SPARK Modules
- ▶ Moodle integration of quizzes within York courses is supported. Quizzes appear in the SPARK course in Moodle



Resources

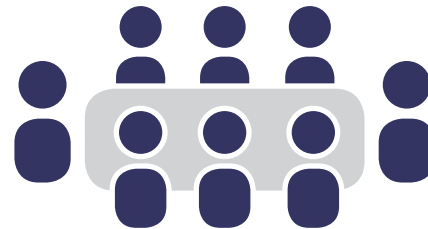
- InstructorsGuides
- Quizzes
- Student Help

For instructions consult the **Quizzes link** in the blue **Resources box**, displaying in the upper right-hand corner of each page in the **SPARK Faculty Module**.

www.yorku.ca/spark/faculty

Workshops

Together the Teaching Commons and Learning Commons offer a number of professional development workshops on teaching with SPARK and supporting students' academic literacy skills.



Teaching Assistants can register for workshops on the following themes:

- critical reading skills
- critical writing and library research skills
- academic integrity in the classroom

These workshops for TAs can be used toward the “Record of Completion” Certificates

See the Upcoming Events Calendar on the Teaching Commons website for more information:
teachingcommons.yorku.ca

Learn More/Contact Us

For answers to any SPARK-related questions, please contact:
askspark@yorku.ca

SPARK is a project of the Learning Commons. Information about the Learning Commons and its work is available at the Learning Commons web site:
learningcommons.yorku.ca

This brochure was created by the Learning Commons Faculty Subcommittee.

Current Members:

Sophie Bury - Libraries (Co-Chair)
Ron Sheese - Writing Dept/Psychology (Co-Chair)

Stephanie Bell - Writing Dept.
Ilo Maimets - Libraries
Natasha May - Teaching Commons
Ros Woodhouse - Writing Dept.
Cathy Boyd-Withers - Student Success Strategies

For more information please contact:
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Further Reading: Academic Literacies Resources

See: The “Learning More” section of the SPARK Faculty Module:
www.yorku.ca/spark/faculty

Student Papers & Academic Research Kit

SPARK

**Instructors’
Guide
to
Teaching with
SPARK**

www.yorku.ca/spark
learningcommons.yorku.ca

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