Elements of High Quality Narrative Paragraphs

- Include examples of student performance
- Examples should include <u>BOTH</u> strengths and areas for improvement
- Character limits should be considered to have MSPE fit the 7 page guideline

Three Components of High Quality Narrative Evaluation for MSPEs

Comment on performance
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Core aspects of medical student performance

Specificity of comments
- Evidence is good
- Examples are best

Useful to the audience
- Useful to the student
- Useful to the educator or residency program director

Narratives Fulfill Three Goals

Assess performance
- Principle source in assessing clinical competency
- Narrative evaluations perform as well as rating scales in differentiating student performance

Feedback to trainees
- Provide feedback and insight to trainees in strengths and weaknesses
- Trainees prefer narrative comments to numerical scales

UME/GME Handoff
- Well written comments are more informative than numerical scales

Movement Towards Common Language

Utilize standard templates/checklists to help frame the narratives when they are being written
- Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes
- [ACGME Competencies](#)

Keep it Concise

- Paragraph needs to be relevant and concise
- Better to include 3-4 strong narrative comments than all 15 comments from a clerkship
- *Eventually there may be a character limit when MSPEs move to an electronic submission format*

How To Handle Incorporating Negative Comments in the Narrative Paragraph

- Include especially if there is a pattern of negative comments
- Can state the positive aspects first (definitely include if there are any listed in evaluations)
- Follow with specific examples outlining the concerns, how the concerns were addressed, and the response of the student
- Often the response of the student is more important than the event

Steps for How to Write an Informative and Concise Summary Narrative to Comply with MSPE Guidelines

- Review all faculty and resident evaluations to decide which ones to include
- Select relevant, well worded sections of longer narratives
  - Select specific examples that which address core competency domains
  - Consider statements from different domains to create a comprehensive narrative

General Examples of Specificity of Narrative Comments

No	Maybe	Yes
Qualifiers	Evidence	Examples
"Showed improvement."	"Started the rotation where I would expect for level of training, but improved consistently."	"Showed improvement consistently during the rotation and was able to perform complex surgical procedures independently without difficulty."

Examples of Specificity for Positive Narrative Comments

Good	Better	Best
Qualifiers	Evidence	Examples
"Hard worker"	"Great team member, always helping out with things that needed to be done."	"Student took the time to make a phone call to an outside hospital to obtain much needed records for the team."

Specificity of Competency Based Comments

?????	Better	Best
Qualifier	Evidence	Example
"competent."	"Did a nice job taking histories and exams were reproducible."	"She demonstrated excellent clinical judgment and quickly recognized a child's worsening respiratory status while taking the history and notified the team immediately."