

Assigning a Structured Peer Assessment

SPAs work slightly differently from other assignments in Yacapaca.

- You must assign to an absolute minimum of 6 students at a time. There is no maximum.
- To ensure students begin in sync, you have a Start button for the exercise.

Where to start

SPAs are indicated by a blue-grey icon in a course list.



The screenshot shows two course items in a list. Each item has a blue-grey square icon on the left, followed by the course title, and two buttons labeled 'PREVIEW' and 'ASSIGN' on the right.

<input type="checkbox"/>	J276 1.5 Network protocols 1	PREVIEW	ASSIGN
<input type="checkbox"/>	J276 1.5 Network protocols 2	PREVIEW	ASSIGN

The Preview button simply shows you the question the students will be answering. The Assign button is self-explanatory.

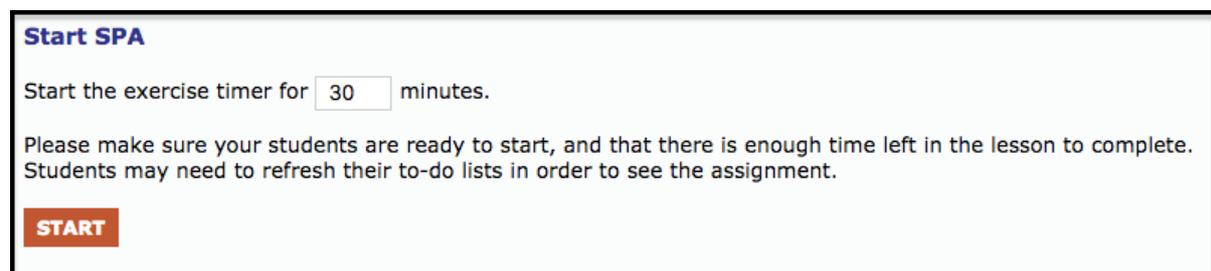
Once assigned, you will see in the Assignments list that there is a green Start button next to that item. Click it when your students are ready to go. If this is their first SPA, make sure to show them the explanatory student video before you start.



The screenshot shows two rows in an assignment list. The first row has a progress bar that is mostly grey with a small blue segment on the left, a green 'START' button, and an 'Actions' dropdown menu. The second row has a progress bar that is mostly grey with a larger green segment on the left, a 'Results' dropdown menu, and an 'Actions' dropdown menu.

% Completed	Action
	START Actions
	Results Actions

You will then see a popup like this:



The screenshot shows a 'Start SPA' popup dialog. It has a title 'Start SPA', a text field for minutes set to '30', a 'START' button, and a paragraph of instructions.

Start SPA

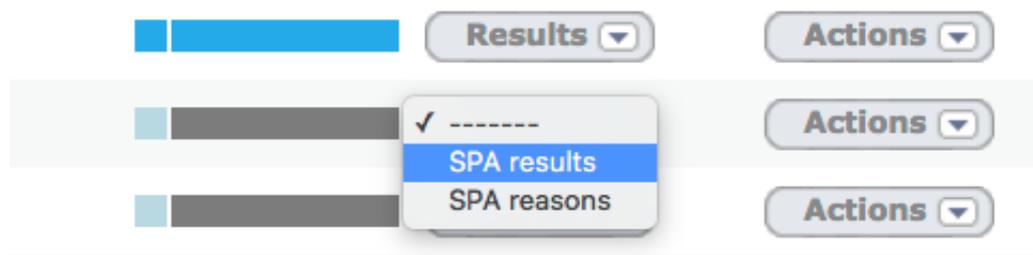
Start the exercise timer for minutes.

Please make sure your students are ready to start, and that there is enough time left in the lesson to complete. Students may need to refresh their to-do lists in order to see the assignment.

START

Make sure you have enough time within the lesson to finish the exercise; you cannot change the timing once you have started. I recommend you stick to the default timing until you are familiar with how SPAs work. Once students are off and running, there isn't much for you to do. The software takes care of the schedule for you.

After the students have finished, there are two screens to view, accessed from the Results dropdown.



SPA results

As well as seeing the students' work, you can see how the students themselves have ranked each others' answers. Additionally, the Judgement Rank shows you how good they were at evaluating other students' answers.

SPA reasons

These are the reasons they gave each other for their preferences. This gives you an excellent insight into the way your students think - the language used is quite different from that used in their answers. Depending on the maturity of the group, you may also need to check for inappropriate comments, or for students attempting to game the system by signing their work - it must always remain anonymous to other students.

And finally

SPAs get better as you and your students do them more. Pay particular attention to rewarding these two diligent behaviours:

- Careful comparisons.
- Leaving thoughtful, positive comments.

By building the right culture and expectations, you set the stage for students to take charge of their own learning, and, incidentally, never having to mark long-text answers again.