Provide feedback and high-quality assessment: the Skill by skill app

Beyond knowledge, skills play an increasing role in educational targets, and therefore in assessment. Moreover, like for students, teamwork in teaching offers complementary profiles and skills, different viewpoints, and therefore a richer teaching.

In this context, it is essential
- To provide students with high-quality feedback and assessment (formative assessment):
    o Rich, combining observations from several teachers or observers
    o Factual, precise
    o Relevant, with reference to explicit assessment criteria
- To provide students with an objective and fair skill assessment (summative assessment)
    o Consistent with feedbacks provided during formative assessment
    o Objective, with reference to known assessment criteria
    o Offering transparency and traceability on observations, therefore based on writing

These pedagogical requirements imply a technical need: easily combine observations from different observers,
- To coordinate the work of the teaching team
- To provide a synthetic assessment from multiple detailed observations

The Skill by skill app has been designed to meet these needs. The two following usage scenarios illustrate the options it offers in various contexts.

http://competences.kasparian.eu/index_en.html

Usage scenario 2: Peer assessment

Learning objective

- Provide more and richer feedback to students
- Help students familiarize with the assessment criteria, by using them
- Help students have a critical view of their achievements, by observing others'
- Enhance the pedagogical challenge of a course, beyond what a trainer alone would be able to observe

Pedagogic preparation

Trainers define a learning objective in terms of skills, each one detailed in easily objectivable observable capacities. The assessment will rely on the observation of these capabilities by students themselves.	example, a session dedicated to the oral presentation of a project will rely on following **skills** and *observable capacities*, described as actions. ***Present a project*** *Speak clearly* *Use slides adapted to the argument* *Structure a presentation* *Respect the timing* *Answer questions clearly and have a deep understanding of the subject* *Captivate the audience* ***Design a research project*** *Ask a clear research question* *Choose relevant methods* *Define a new and relevant subject* *Design a realistic project* ***Others*** *Observe actions by peers, write them down and interpret them as contributions to skills assessment*

Technical preparation

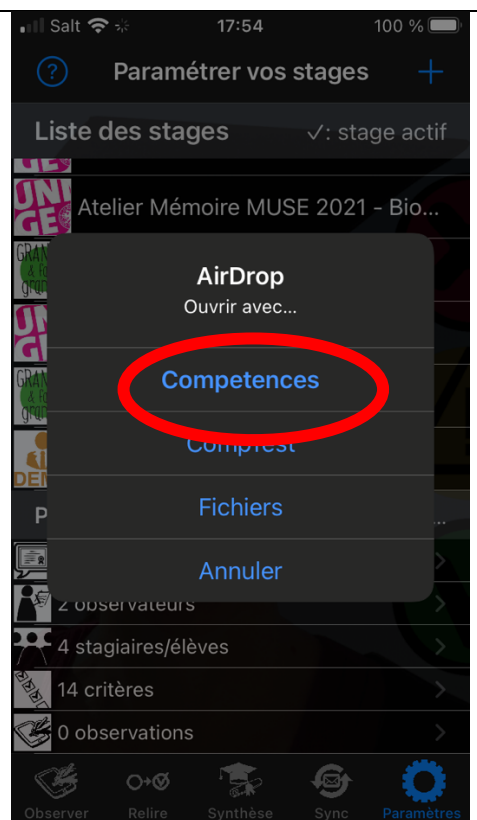|	
A trainer creates the session: Students, observers (the trainers[1]), list of skills, and shares it with peer student observers, by checking the corresponding switch.	See Appendix
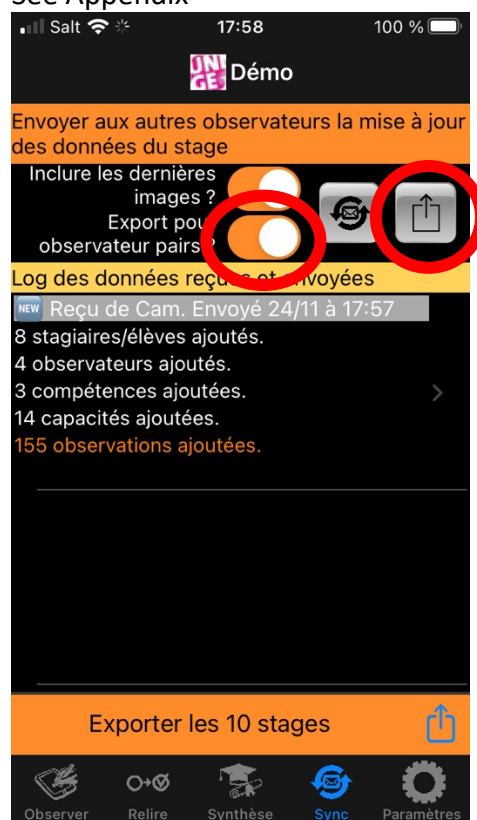
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[1] Student observers will be added automatically when they provide their first observations to the trainer.

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With the students: preparation

Each observer-student opens the session in the Skill by skill app.	
They selects their name as observer[1]…	
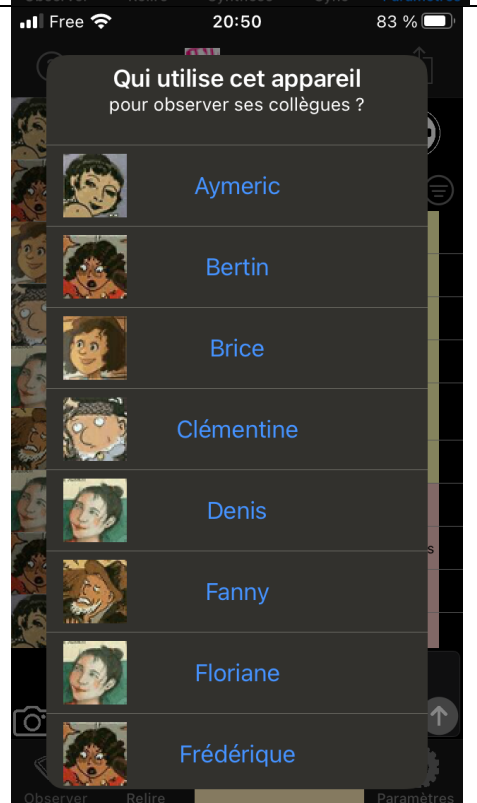
[1] Their name will then be italicized and marked with a star in the students list.

… and the observation page opens.

Trainers can review with the students
- Assessment criteria
- How to provide useful feedback
- The use of the app (test run)
- The deontology of observation (no judgement, data conservation rules…)

1. Students list
2. Badges to rate observations
3. List of capacities
4. Record observation
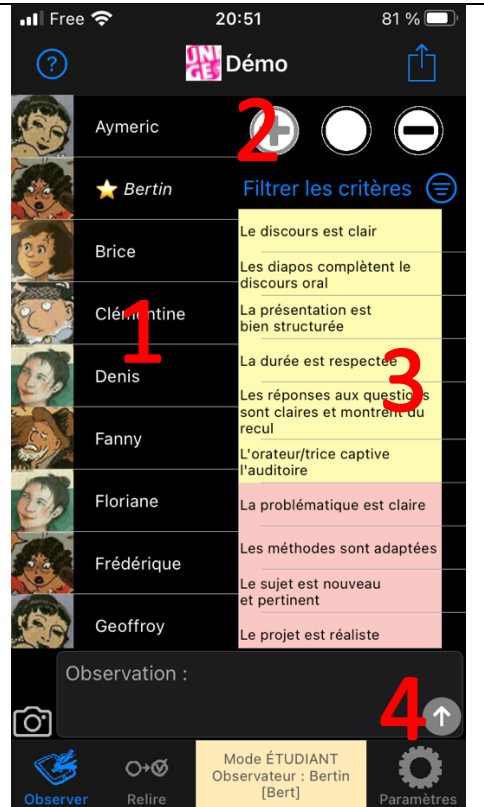
With the students: Observing

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During the session, the observer students will observe the action of their peers, write them down and relate them to capacities. The app offers several tips to help real-conditions note-taking: keep a student selected while selected for a task, integrated timer… Discover these tips in the video tutorial on the help page of the app.	In practice 1. Select a student 2. Select a « badge » to rate the observation: positive ⊕, neutral ○, or negative ⊖ 3. Select the capacity(es) related to the observation 4. Write down the observation and record it (🔼 button) Note: Steps 2 and 3 can be skipped during the session. The link between observations and capacities can be done a posteriori.

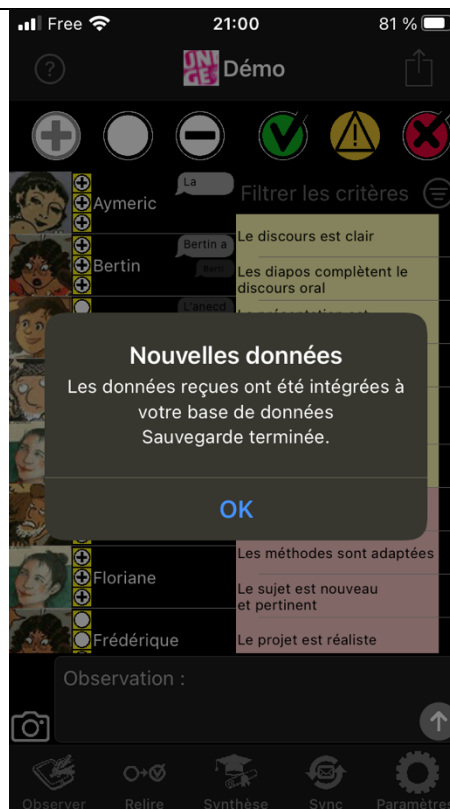| At the end of the session, each student can
   - Review the observations he/she did
   - Correct, rephrase, clarify them
   - Revise and correct the associated rating (badges) | |
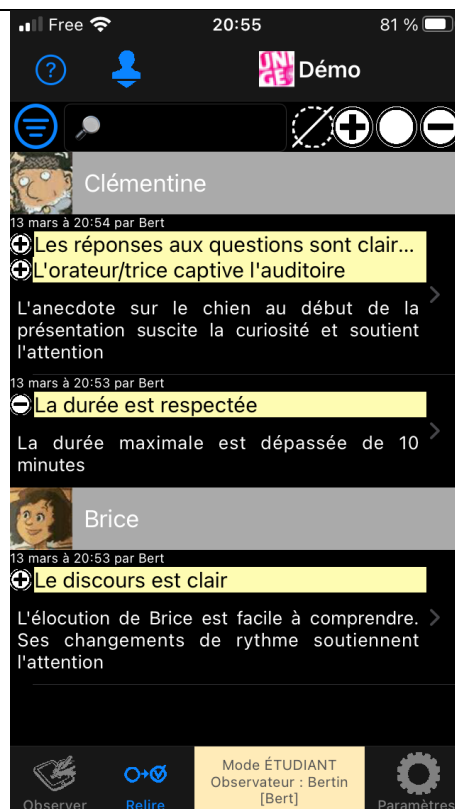
End of the session: Students transfer their observations to the trainer(s)

| Each student observer shares their observations with the trainer, via direct Bluetooth link, shared disk, e-mail, or any messaging system. | |
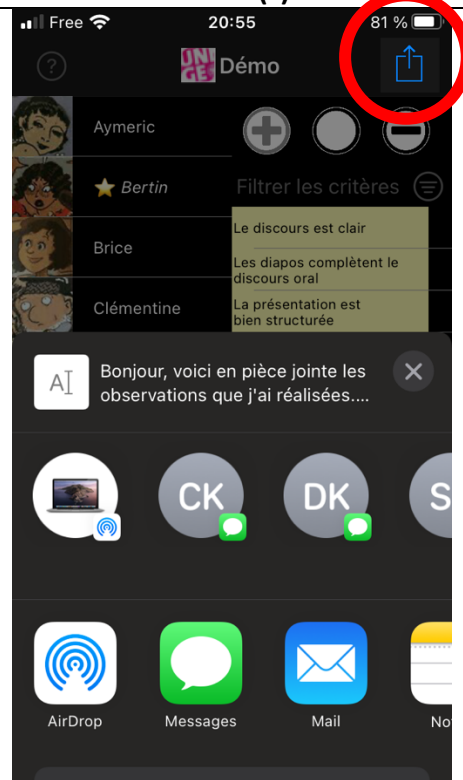
After the session: Gather observations

The observations from students are imported in the trainer's app…	
… who can review them to ensure the students' observations (which appear in *italics* over a coloured background) are clear and match the requirements: constructive, respectful, helpful, factual… …and validate them, or if necessary, edit or suppress peer observations that do not match the deontological rules. Once validated, the students' observations recover a standard background.	
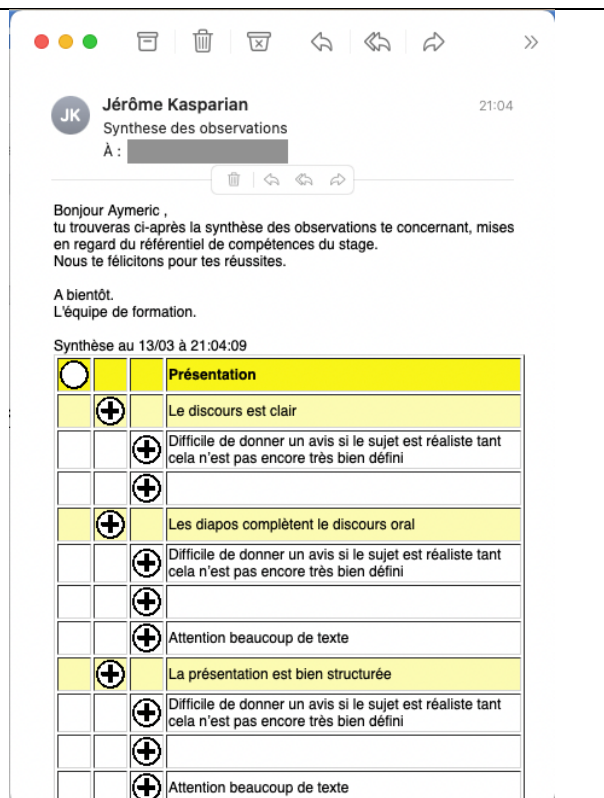
Feedback to students – Peer assessment

The app automatically generates a list of observations regarding each student, sorted by skill, and can send it by e-mail. In this export, observations are not signed, so that student observers stay anonymous.

This feedback can be supervised: explanations, empathic listening to emotions when receiving the observations…
It can be used for small- or full-group work on how each student could progress.

Observing is also a skill in itself

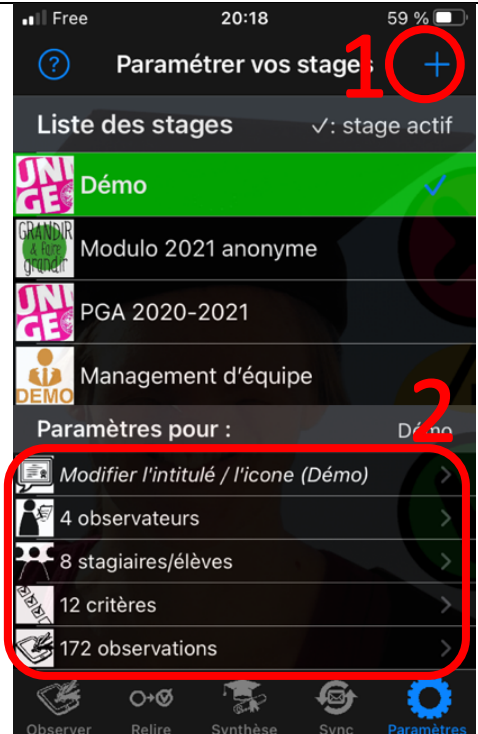|	
Providing factual and constructive observations and provide a synthesis to the concerned person are also skills, that can be worked on and assessed on the basis of the observations performed on peers. Each time a student produces an observation on a peer, the app automatically creates a "meta-observation", displayed on a blue background till it is validated, regarding the student observer.	
Like any observation, the trainer can edit and/or rate this observation in the Review page.	
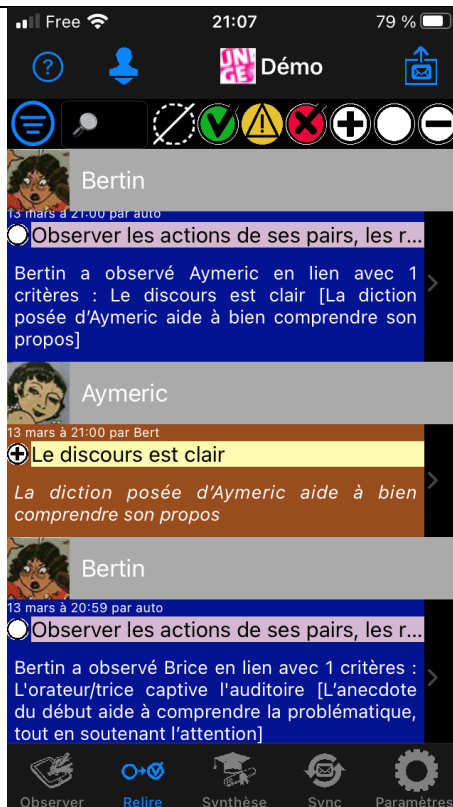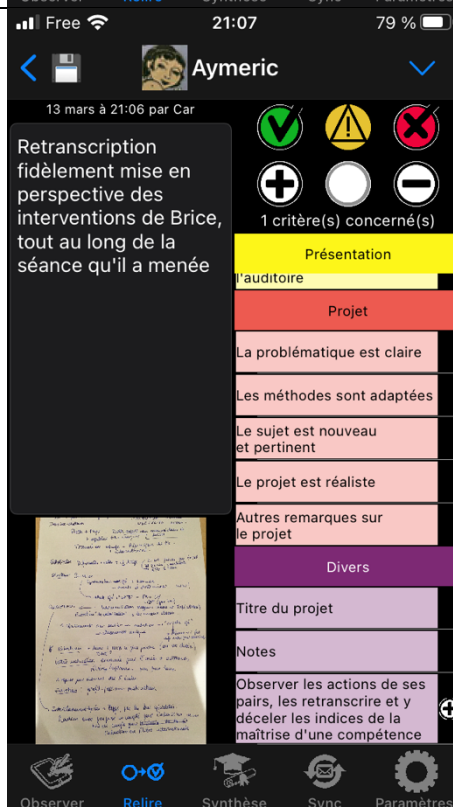
Appendix: Create a session

A session is defined by four parameters
-   A title, possibly associated with an icon
-   A list of observers
-   A list of students
-   A list of skills, each detailed as observable capacities

The Skill by skill app offers two ways to create a session: direct input of the data, or importing a CSV file.

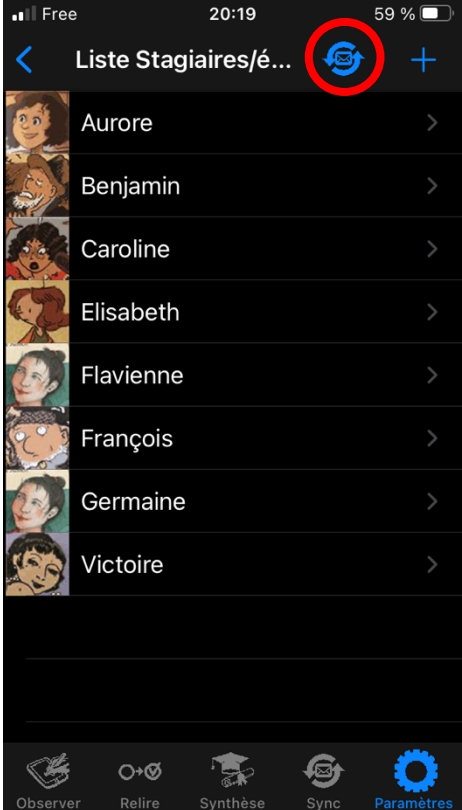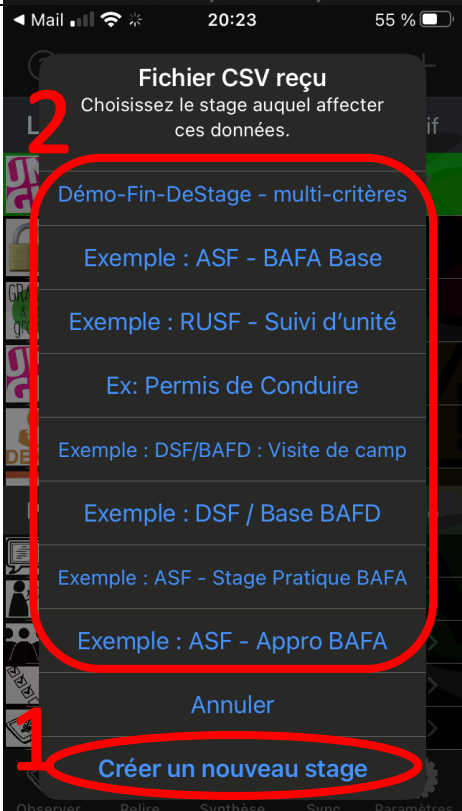**Method 1: Direct input of the data in the app**
This method is faster to create a simple session, with few skills, observers, and students. It also allows to easily modify an existing session (e.g., add a student).

1. Create a new session
The app offers the opportunity to duplicate parameters from an existing session. The newly created session then appears in the list.
2. Browse parameters to enter
    a. The session title, and if relevant its icon
    b. Observers (trainers only[1])
    c. Students (name and picture)
    d. Skills and observable capacities	

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[1] Student observers will be added automatically when they provide their first observations to the trainer.

Method 2: Importing CSV files
This method is faster for long lists of skills, observers, and students.

Parameters will be imported as CSV files. Export sample lists of students, observers, and skills. Sample data can then be replaced by the actual data of the session to configure. The CSV files are then recorded…	
… and imported in the app 1. The first file (e.g., the list of students) will be assigned to a new session to be created (1). The new session will then appear in the list of sessions (2). 2. Subsequent files will be assigned to the chosen session (2) 3. Students' pictures can be added later via drag-and-drop on the students' list.	