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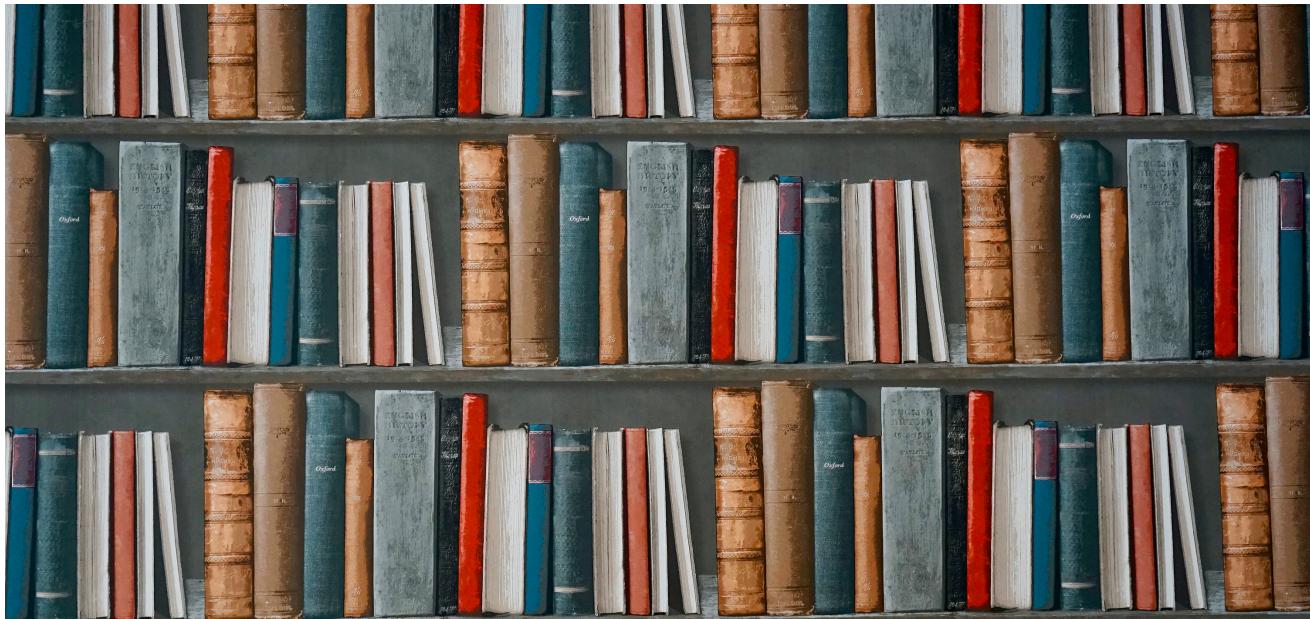
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Introduction



AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

Hey everyone! Welcome back for this week's issue of the official *bridges* newsletter!

For many of you, these past few weeks have been nothing short of insane. You have finally enrolled in your post secondary schools and are officially getting started on the next chapter of your academic career. This week, we're planning on helping you out by discussing a huge part of any academic class: the different methods of teaching and marking.

Since every student is different, many of your professors will try to incorporate a wide array of assessments to make the class as inclusive and dynamic as possible. It's important that you understand these different methods and how to excel in each and every one of them. Having said that, let's get started!

in this issue...

- Standardized Testing
- Presentations
- Assignments

First off... Standardized Testing?

AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

The first method we will explore is familiar to students all across the world: standardized tests. These tests come in many different forms, let's talk about some of the most common ones.

exams

This is the big one you gotta watch out for. Exams are usually worth disproportionately more than almost any other assessment your profs will give you.

They could be worth as little as 10% or as high as 100% of your mark. If there's one thing you gotta try your best at, it's this!

midterms/tests

Many professors will use this throughout the semester to make sure you understand the topics you are learning.

These are not worth as much as exams, but still are an extremely important part of your grade.

quick quizzes

You might get these as frequently as every week!

These quizzes could be worth as little as 0.5% of your mark.

They help you and your professor make sure you're staying on top of work.

TIPS:

- Stay up to date on textbook readings and lecture videos! It's much easier to do them spaced out than panic and do them all in one night (trust us...we know).
- Practice as many questions as realistically possible. You won't learn just by watching your prof, practice by doing the questions yourself! Especially past midterms and exams!
- Write down all your deadlines as you find them and keep them close! Deadlines can sneak up on you really fast and the next thing you know you'll be up at 4 am with your 3rd cup of coffee!

You Ready? It's Presentation Time!

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Our next type of assessment strikes fear into the hearts of many students everywhere... presenting to a large audience. It is, however, one of the best ways to gain confidence and is widely used in the arts, law, and business. So let's discuss some types of presentations that you might encounter.

performing a skill:

In many fields, you might have to dance, sing, act, imitate or play your instrument. These presentations show off and test your talent and if done right, they can be one of the most enjoyable types of assessments!



teaching an idea:

In other fields, especially in language and sciences, your prof might expect you to teach what you know by making slides, a poster, or a recording that demonstrates your understanding of the subject.

TIPS:

- If you can, try getting some feedback from your prof and friends. See what they think about your presentation and how to improve it. A fresh point of view is always a good idea!
- Practice, Practice, Practice! Try to master your skill or presentation before it happens. Who knows, you may even realize you have hidden talents!
- Make it unique! Put your own twist in your presentations by showing off your creative side and make your projects memorable.

...wait...you expect me to turn this assignment in?

AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

Our last type of assessment we will be discussing are assignments. Compared to the last two, assignments generally cause the greatest long term stress due to their “turn it in later” nature. To combat this, let’s talk about them a bit more.

tasks and research

The most common type of assignments would be when your prof gives you a set of guidelines that will have you research and create some sort of a final product with. These will then be handed in for marking.



in-class tasks

In other cases, your prof may require you to gather all the data you would need in class and perform the write up at home to hand in. A very common example of this is lab work.

TIPS:

- Many professors like making assignments a group project and sometimes require you to work with strangers. To do your best in groups, try to develop your teamwork and communication skills the best you can!
- If it's a significant assignment worth a substantial amount of your mark, try splitting it evenly over some weeks (or months) instead of working on it for 12 hours on one day and forgetting about it for a month.
- If you're allowed, try to make a study group with friends to make the work much easier and enjoyable. Make sure not to copy each other's work though!

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