



Welcome to your Summer 2018 CIRTL Network Short Course


Designing Your Course & Designing Yourself As a Teacher: A Simultaneous Process

Brought to you by instructors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a CIRTL Member

Thursdays in July

2:00-4:00PM ET / 1:00-3:00PM CT / **12:00-2:00PM MT** / 11:00-1:00PM PT

When you join the room, please:

1. Download “Week 4 Slides: Instructional Improvement” from Moodle ()
and use the polling tool  to let us know when you’ve done so.
2. Confirm that your microphone and headphones work by running the Audio Setup Wizard:
Tools Menu → Audio → Audio Setup Wizard. If you run into issues, type a message in the chat window.

Honing your craft: Building a foundation for a lifetime of instructional improvement

Brian A. Couch

University of Nebraska
School of Biological Sciences



My path to discipline-based education research



Regis University (B.S.)
Biology



Yale University (Ph.D.)
Biochemistry



My path to discipline-based education research



Regis University (B.S.)
Biology



Yale University (Ph.D.)
Biochemistry



University of Colorado (Postdoc.)
Biology Education Research



My path to discipline-based education research



Regis University (B.S.)
Biology



Yale University (Ph.D.)
Biochemistry



University of Colorado (Postdoc.)
Biology Education Research



University of Nebraska (Asst. Prof.)
Biology Education Research



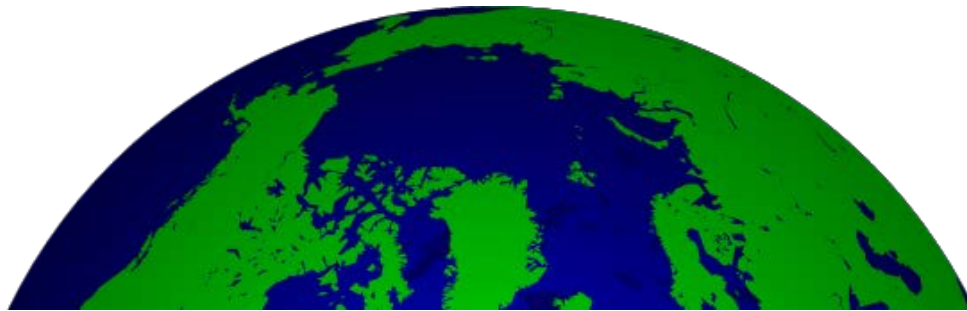
Workshop overview

1. Collecting and leveraging evidence for instructional improvement

- Conducting informed reflection
- Documenting teaching practices

2. Designing a teaching-as-research project

- Elements of research design
- Example of course-based research



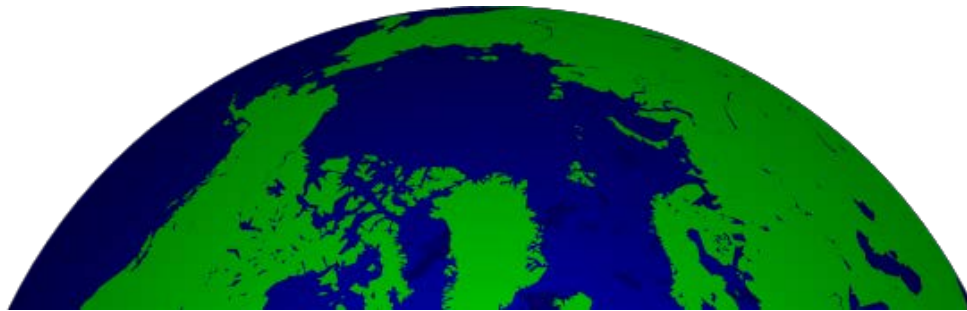
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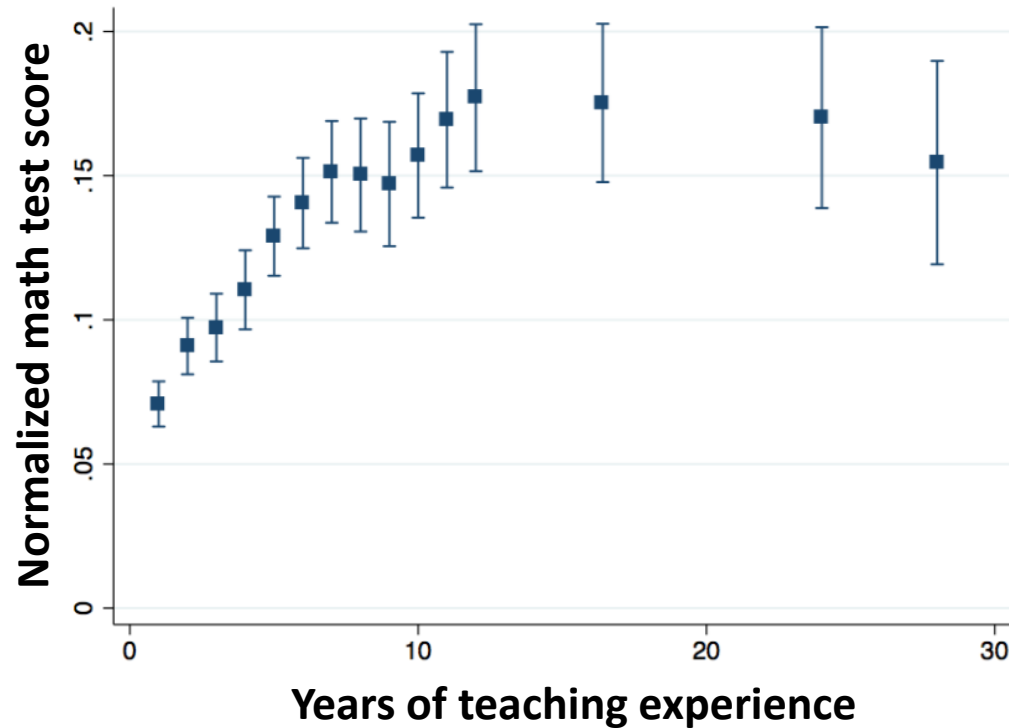
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How does teaching experience affect student learning?

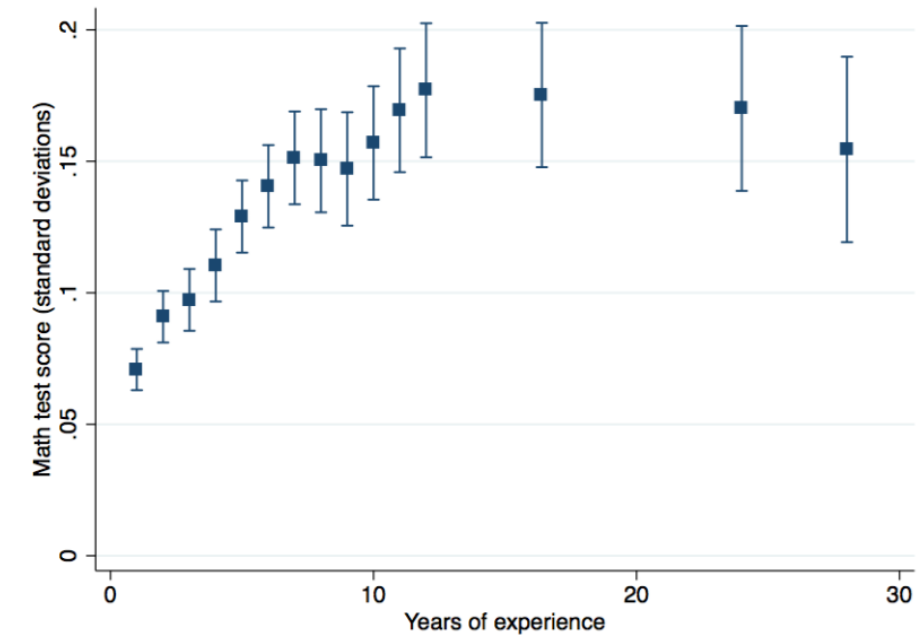


How does teaching experience affect student learning?



What implications does this graph have for how we approach teaching as a professional practice?

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Share on this slide by clicking the



icon in the vertical toolbar to the left, creating a text box, and typing.



Thinking about the goals of undergraduate courses

What does it mean for you to be an effective instructor? What are the outcomes that you want your students to achieve?

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Some desired outcomes of undergraduate courses

I want students to:

have a good
experience

Satisfaction

feel like they
are learning

Some desired outcomes of undergraduate courses

I want students to:

have a good
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feel like they
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learn specific
content

Learning

learn practical
science skills

learn how to work
in a lab

develop critical
thinking skills

gain study
strategies

Some desired outcomes of undergraduate courses

I want students to:

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Affective

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Achievement

succeed in subsequent courses

gain admittance to graduate programs

solve global challenges

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What sources of data can you use to determine whether your students are meeting these outcomes?

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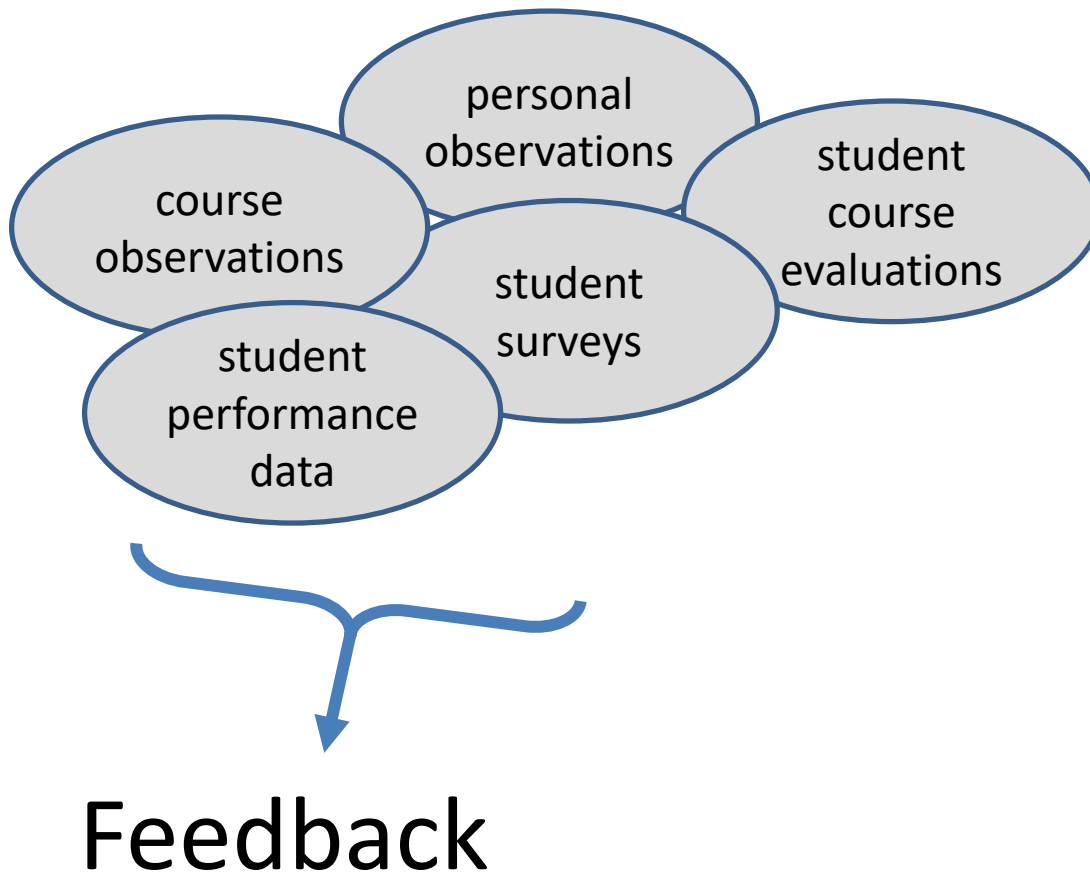
Satisfaction	Learning	Effectiveness	Achievement

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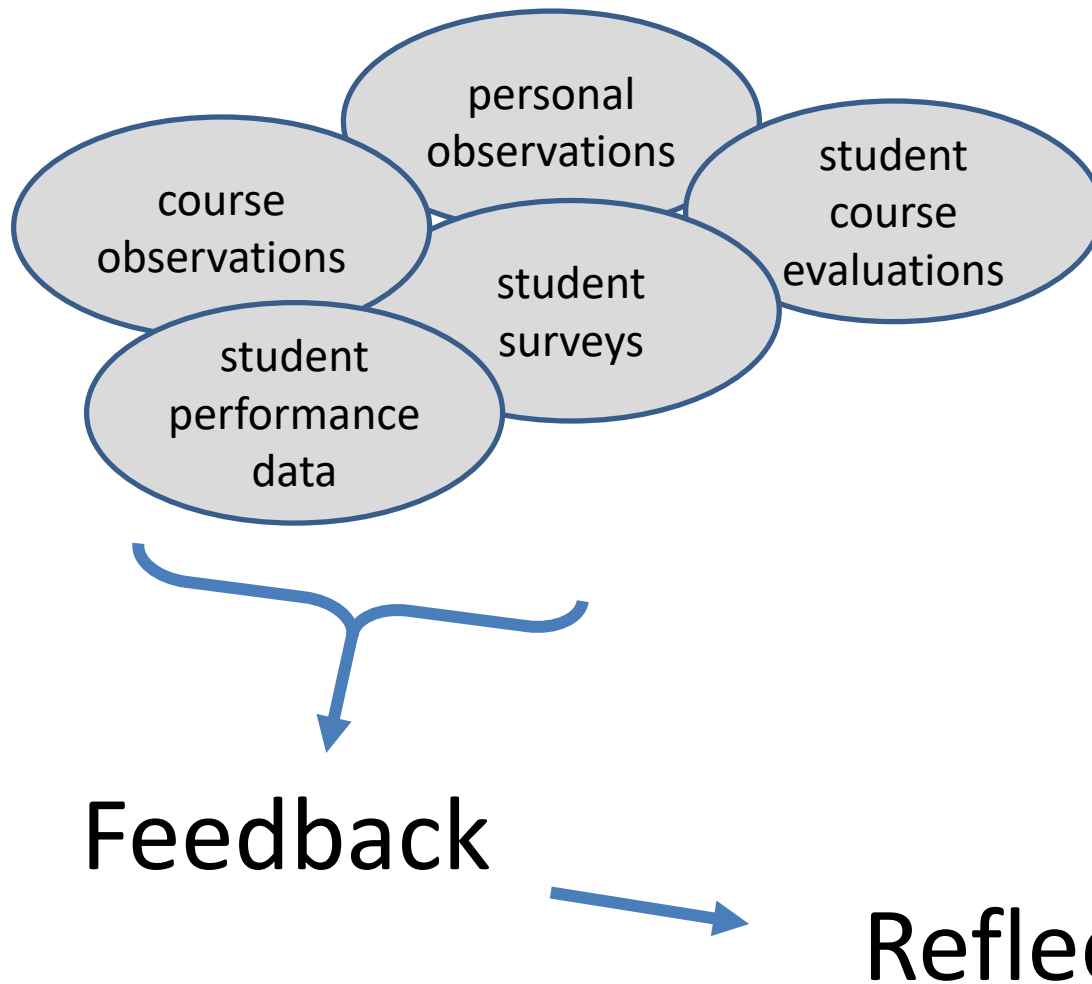


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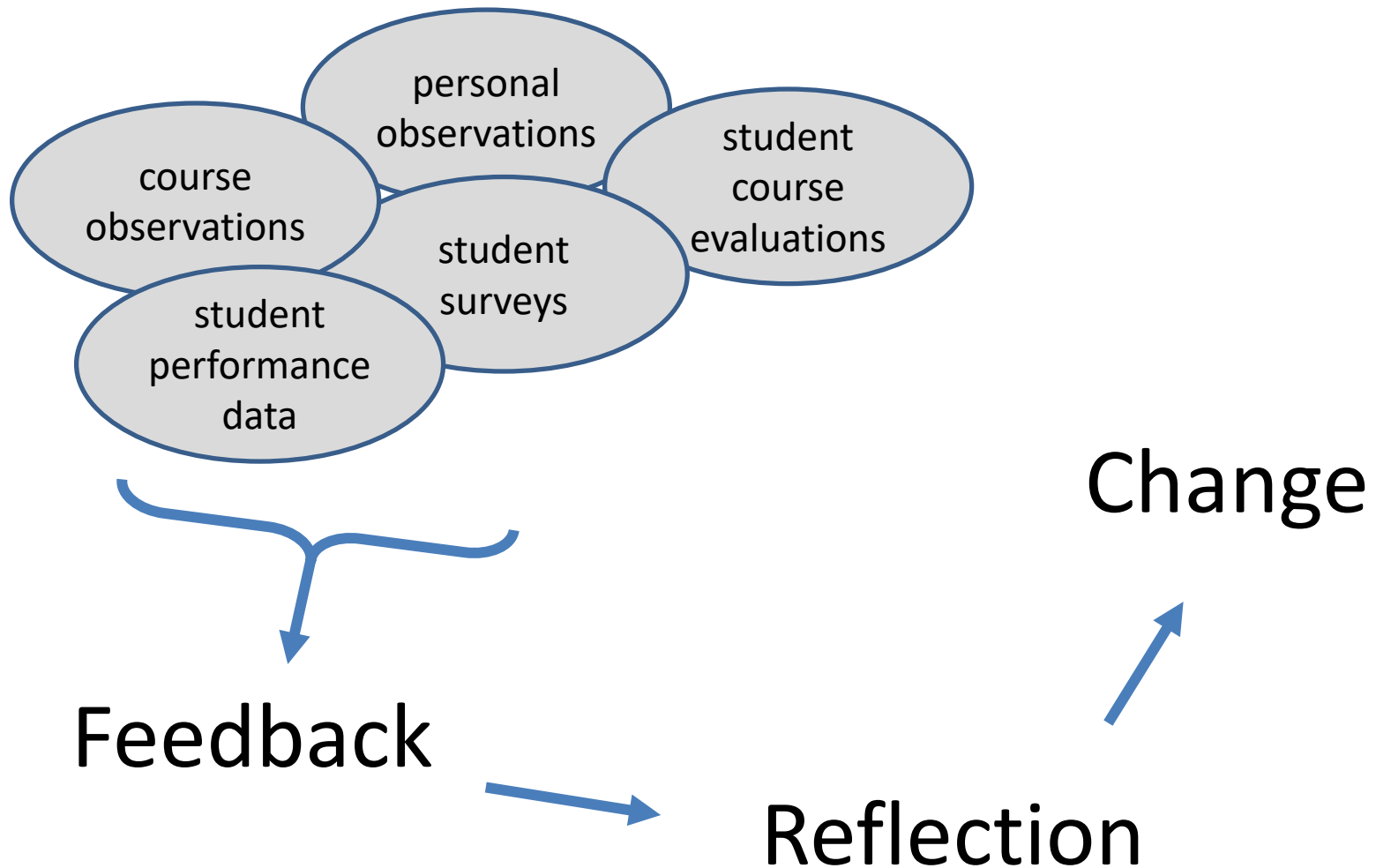
Using informed reflection as a means to facilitate instructional improvement



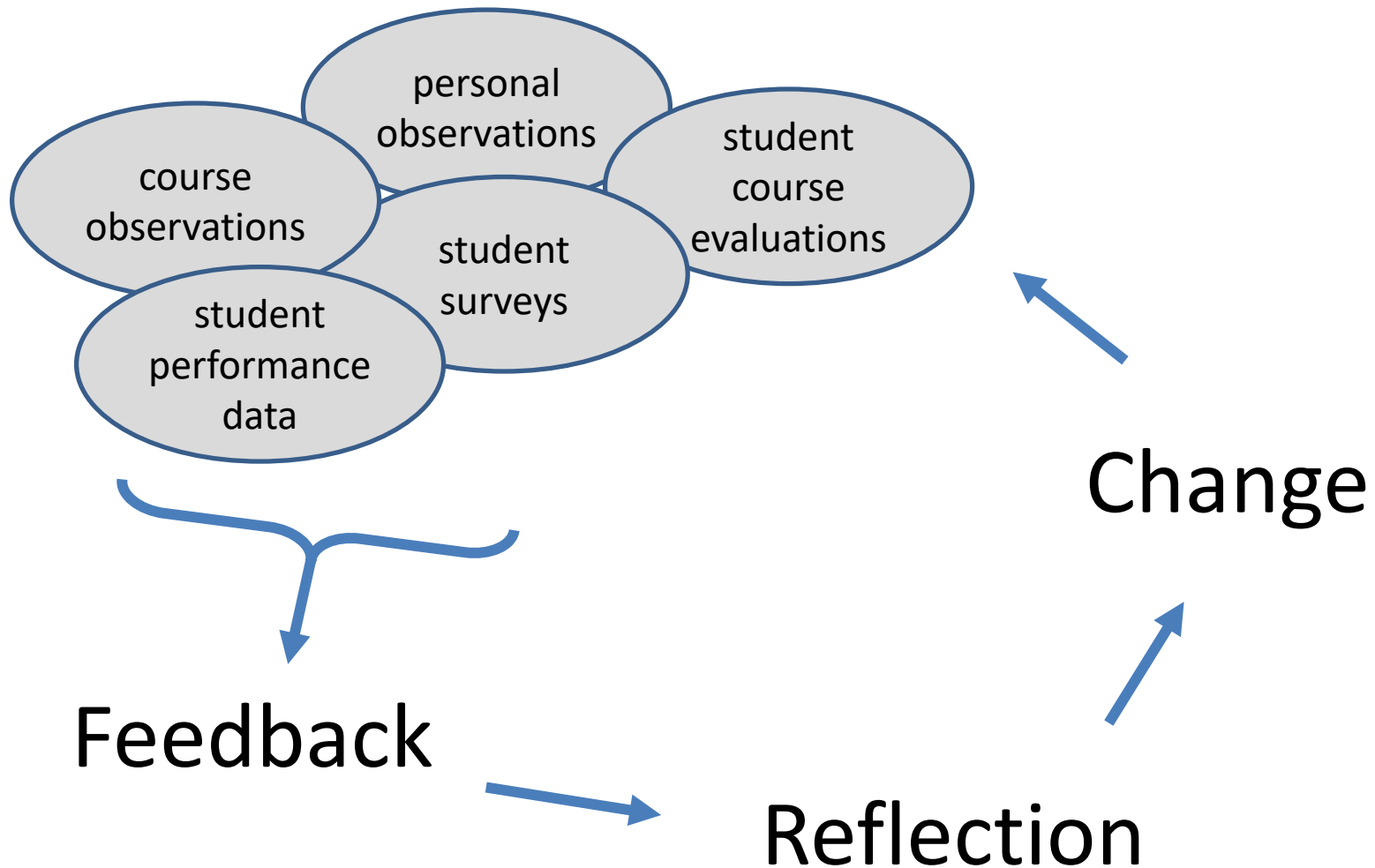
Using informed reflection as a means to facilitate instructional improvement



Using informed reflection as a means to facilitate instructional improvement



Using informed reflection as a means to facilitate instructional improvement



Personal observations

- Pros**
- Easy to collect
 - Made in real-time
 - High value to the teacher

Personal observations

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- Easy to collect
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Cons

- Poor sampling
- Prone to outliers
- Highly subjective

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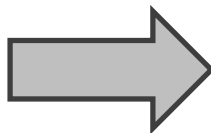
Cons

- Poor sampling
- Prone to outliers
- Highly subjective

Strategies

- Use on a limited, as-needed basis
- Convert anecdotal sampling into more systematic methods

Students
appear
confused



Clickers,
Muddiest point,
One-minute paper

- Collect corroborating evidence from other sources

Student course evaluations

- Pros**
- Part of course norms
 - Often anonymized
 - Valued by some people

Student course evaluations

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- Limited correlation with learning
- Prone to biases
- Occur at end of course

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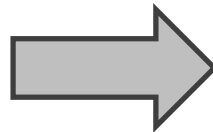
Cons

- Limited correlation with learning
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Strategies

- Conduct mid-semester evaluation(s): Keep, Quit, Change
- Supplement with other closed-ended or open-ended questions that you value
- Be careful about reading them during the semester
- Focus on questions with actionable content

Overall
course
satisfaction



Feedback,
organization,
grading

Student performance data

- Pros**
- Collected for grades
 - Authentic performance

Student performance data

Pros

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- Authentic performance

Cons

- Difficult to probe deeper proficiencies
- Biased toward your own teaching

Student performance data

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Strategies

- Make sure assessments are aligned with learning objectives
- Use published instruments, concept inventories
- Give pre-post tests, compare across years
- Consider test security and possible cheating

Student surveys

- Pros**
- Only way to collect affective opinions
 - Probe other important course outcomes

Student surveys

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- Cons**
- Somewhat outside course norms
 - Proxy for larger outcomes

Student surveys

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Strategies

- Use published instruments: views of learning, views toward disciplines, motivation, ownership, belonging, beliefs, self-efficacy, etc.
- Keep short and focused, explain to students why collecting this information, give course credit

Course observations

- Pros**
- Incorporates expert judgment
 - Reveals blind spots

Course observations

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Cons

- Resource intensive
- Intimidating

Course observations

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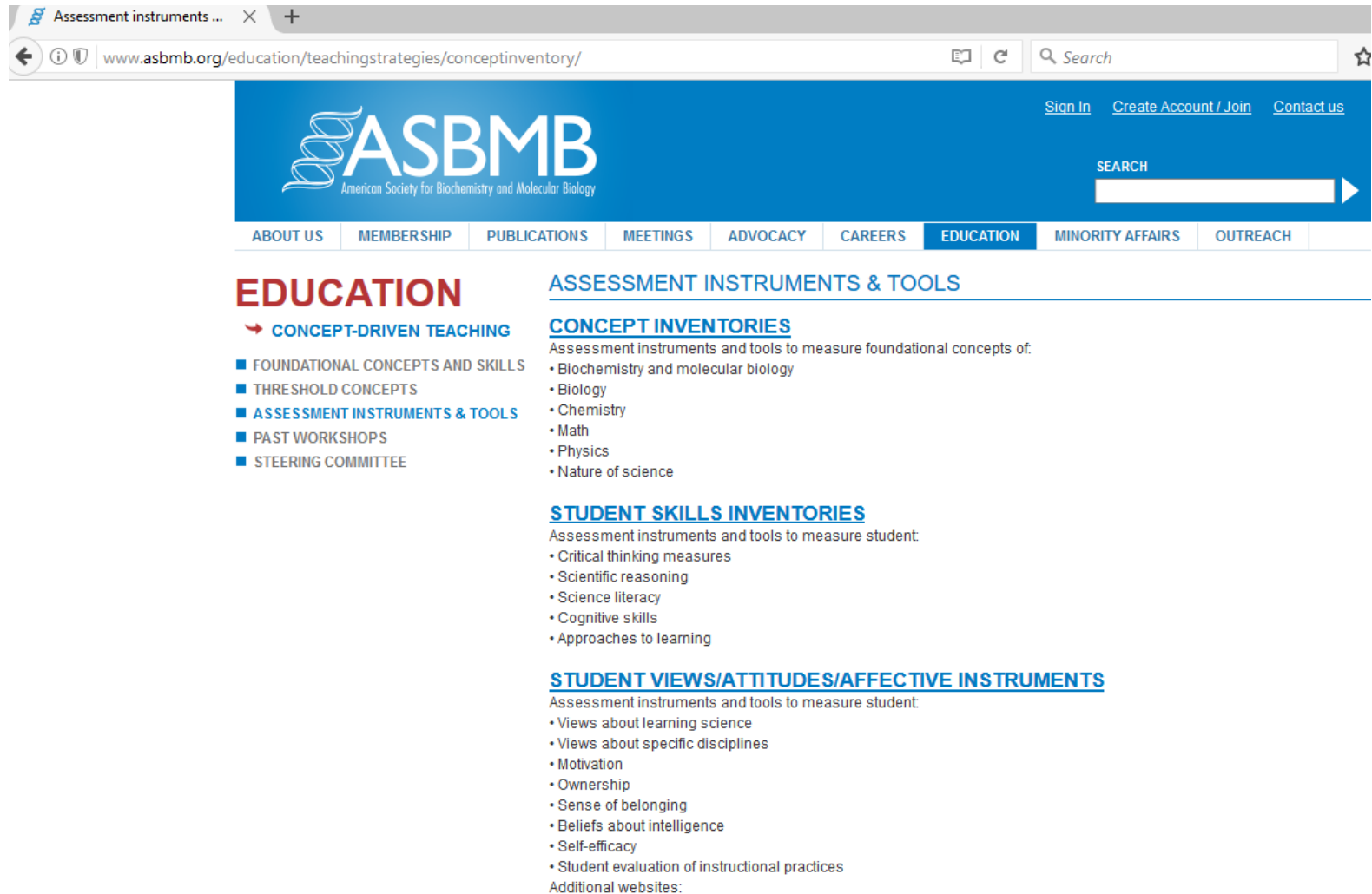
- Resource intensive
- Intimidating

Strategies

- Use for any aspect of course: syllabus, materials, class delivery, assignments, exams
- Collect feedback from different sources, establish relationship over time
- Keep observations objective and informative

ASBMB list of instruments

<http://www.asbmb.org/education/teachingstrategies/conceptinventory/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the ASBMB website. The browser's address bar displays the URL www.asbmb.org/education/teachingstrategies/conceptinventory/. The website's header features the ASBMB logo (American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) and navigation links: Sign In, Create Account / Join, and Contact us. A search bar is also present. The main navigation menu includes links for ABOUT US, MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS, ADVOCACY, CAREERS, EDUCATION (which is highlighted), MINORITY AFFAIRS, and OUTREACH. The EDUCATION section is expanded, showing a list of links: CONCEPT-DRIVEN TEACHING, FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS AND SKILLS, THRESHOLD CONCEPTS, ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS & TOOLS (which is highlighted), PAST WORKSHOPS, and STEERING COMMITTEE. The ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS & TOOLS section is further detailed, listing three categories: CONCEPT INVENTORIES, STUDENT SKILLS INVENTORIES, and STUDENT VIEWS/ATTITUDES/AFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS. Each category includes a brief description and a list of specific instruments or topics.

ASBMB
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

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EDUCATION

- ➔ [CONCEPT-DRIVEN TEACHING](#)
- [FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS AND SKILLS](#)
- [THRESHOLD CONCEPTS](#)
- **[ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS & TOOLS](#)**
- [PAST WORKSHOPS](#)
- [STEERING COMMITTEE](#)

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS & TOOLS

CONCEPT INVENTORIES

Assessment instruments and tools to measure foundational concepts of:

- Biochemistry and molecular biology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Math
- Physics
- Nature of science

STUDENT SKILLS INVENTORIES

Assessment instruments and tools to measure student:

- Critical thinking measures
- Scientific reasoning
- Science literacy
- Cognitive skills
- Approaches to learning

STUDENT VIEWS/ATTITUDES/AFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS

Assessment instruments and tools to measure student:

- Views about learning science
- Views about specific disciplines
- Motivation
- Ownership
- Sense of belonging
- Beliefs about intelligence
- Self-efficacy
- Student evaluation of instructional practices

Additional websites:

A strategy for course observation



Provide
information

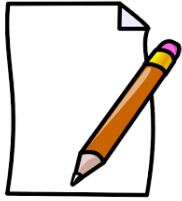


Observe



Meet for
coffee

A strategy for course observation



Provide
information



Observe



Meet for
coffee

Regarding:

- the instructor's instruction
- the instructor's interaction with students
- students' engagement in the learning process
- other things the instructor asked me to observe

I observed...

Documenting evidence of effective teaching

student
surveys

student
performance
data

course
observations

personal
observations

student
course
evaluations

If you were on a hiring committee, which of these sources would provide the most powerful evidence of a commitment to instructional improvement. Rank them.

Rank these sources from most powerful evidence of commitment to instructional improvement to least powerful

Data source	1 – most powerful	2	3	4	5 – least powerful
Student surveys					
Student performance data					
Course observations					
Personal observations					
Student course evaluations					

Use the textbox tool



to put an “X” in the box that matches your ranking for each data source

Documenting evidence of effective teaching

student
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If you were on a hiring committee, which of these sources would provide the most powerful evidence of a commitment to instructional improvement. Rank them.

How will you collect this evidence to document your teaching practice and communicate this to a hiring committee? Make a plan for one piece of evidence, then share with your group.

How will you collect this evidence to document your teaching practice and communicate it to a hiring committee?

Reflect individually on how you would collect a piece of evidence of your choosing.

Move into breakout rooms for a small group discussion where each group member shares their plan.

Return to the main room ready to share a single plan from your group.

Share on this slide by clicking the



icon in the vertical toolbar to the left, creating a text box, and typing.



How will you collect this evidence to document your teaching practice and communicate it to a hiring committee?

Share a single piece of evidence and how your group would collect it

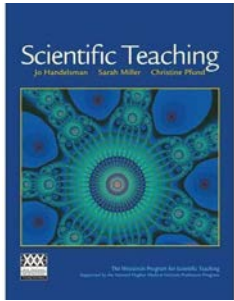
Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5
Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	Room 9	Room 10

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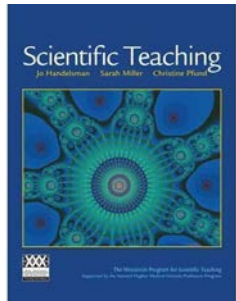
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Another strategy for documenting teaching practices



Scientific Teaching
encapsulates best
practices

Another strategy for documenting teaching practices

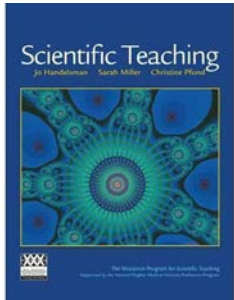


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Couch et al. (2015) CBE-LSE

Another strategy for documenting teaching practices



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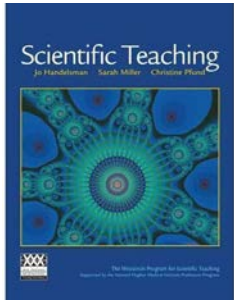
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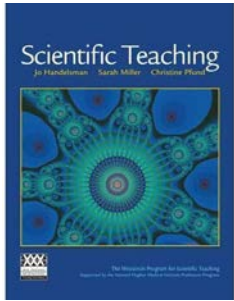
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Active learning
Learning goal use
Inclusivity
Responsiveness

Experimental design
Data analysis
Cognitive skills
Reflection

Another strategy for documenting teaching practices



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MIST

Measurement Instrument for Scientific Teaching

Active learning
Learning goal use
Inclusivity
Responsiveness

Experimental design
Data analysis
Cognitive skills
Reflection

MIST can be completed by:



Instructor



Students



Observer

MIST score report documents teaching practices

MIST

Measurement Instrument for Scientific Teaching

Instructor: Example Instructor

Course: Example Course 101

Semester: Fall 2017

Thank you for using the MIST (Measurement Instrument for Scientific Teaching)!

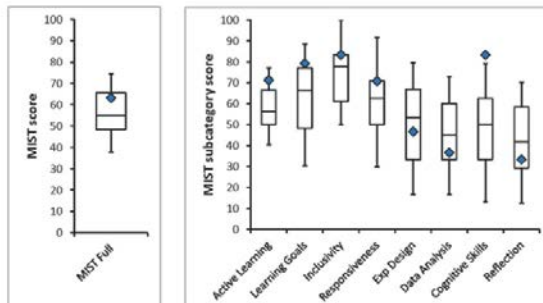
Below you will find the results from both your survey responses and your students' responses.

Part 1: Individual scores and comparisons to student responses:

The MIST composite score indicates the overall level of scientific teaching occurring in your course on a scale of 0-100.

The MIST subscores indicate the levels of each group of teaching practices, each on a scale of 0-100.

There is no ideal score in any category.

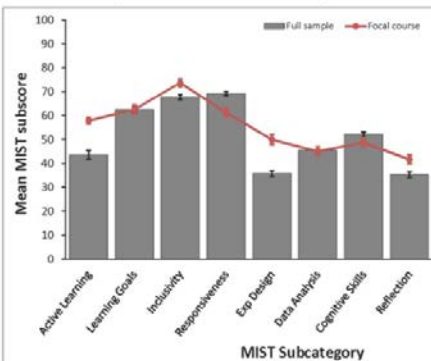


The boxes display student medians, 1st, and 3rd quartiles, and the whiskers indicate the 5th and 95th percentiles of student responses. The blue diamonds are scores based on your responses.

Part 2: Individual scores compared to the full sample of study participants:

The red line indicates the mean student responses from your course and the grey bars indicate the mean student responses from all courses enrolled in the study at all institutions.

Percentile rankings of individual courses within the full sample of courses in the study. Data are based on scores derived from student means.



MIST scale type	Score	Percentile
MIST composite	55.91	62nd
MIST subcategories:		
Active Learning Strategies	57.92	77th
Learning Goal Use & Feedback	62.57	44th
Inclusivity	73.66	71st
Responsiveness to Students	61.38	14th
Experimental Design & Communication	50.00	90th
Data Analysis & Interpretation	45.10	47th
Cognitive Skills	48.75	36th
Course & Self-Reflection	41.75	68th

MIST score report documents teaching practices

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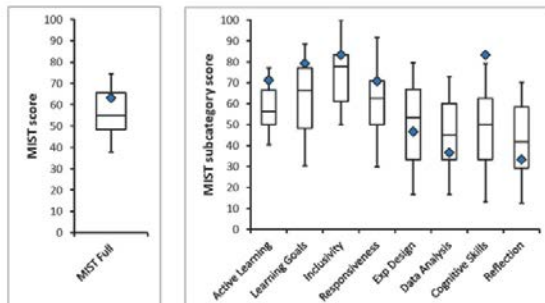
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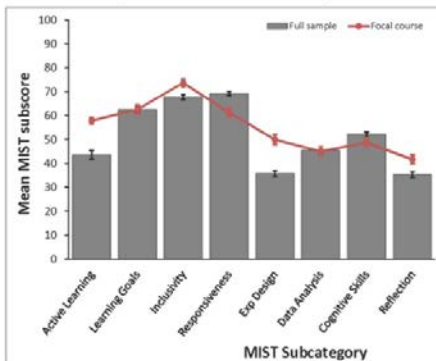
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Using student surveys as a means to promote reflective learning

Benefits for you

- You get to see information on how your students are perceiving or interacting with the course.
- You can make adjustments to your teaching to help students better understand your intentions and how to learn.

Using student surveys as a means to promote reflective learning

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- You can make adjustments to your teaching to help students better understand your intentions and how to learn.

Benefits for students

- The act of completing the survey can stimulate students to reflect on their own learning and study strategies.
- Seeing you respond to their data will make them believe that you care and want to see them succeed.

An example of how surveys benefit instructors and students

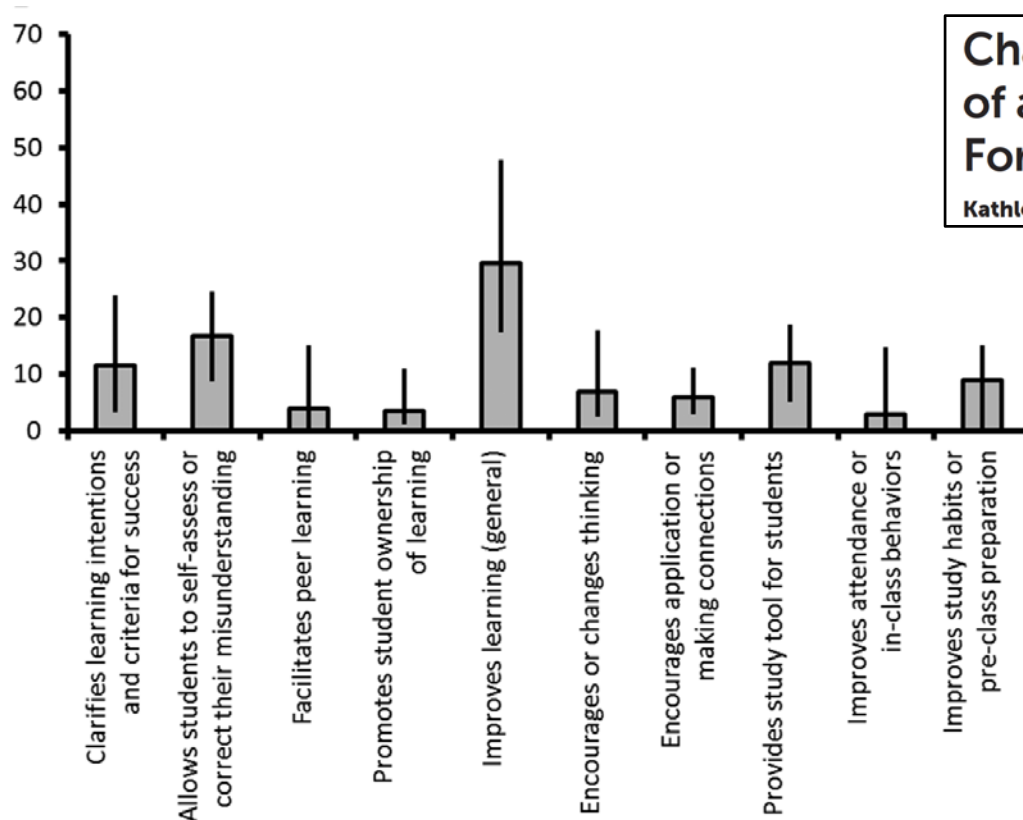
We asked students:

- Why do you think [clickers] are used in this course?
- **How has the use of [clickers] influenced your learning?**
- How has the use of [clickers] influenced your instructor's teaching?
- How might the use of [clickers] be changed to improve your learning?

An example of how surveys benefit instructors and students

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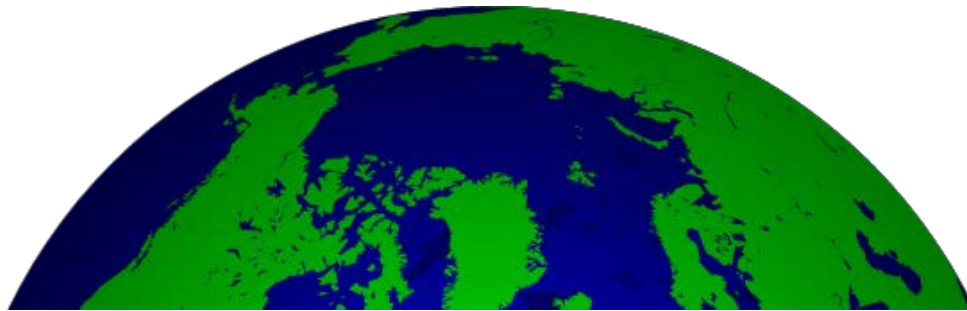
Characterizing Student Perceptions of and Buy-In toward Common Formative Assessment Techniques

Kathleen R. Brazeal,[†] Tanya L. Brown,[‡] and Brian A. Couch^{†*}

Workshop overview

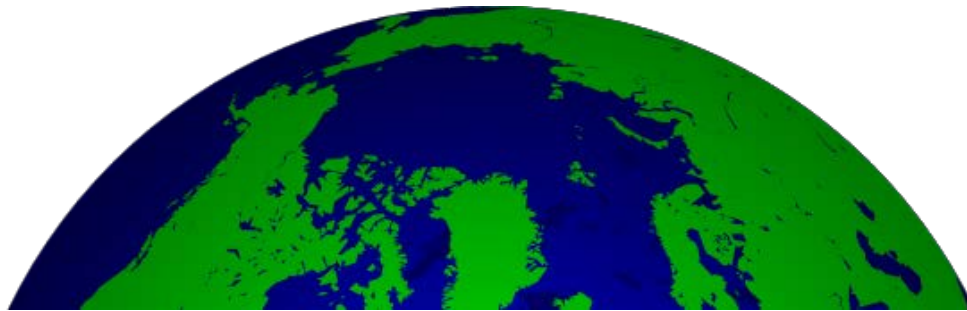
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Workshop overview

1. Collecting and leveraging evidence for instructional improvement
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2. **Designing a teaching-as-research project**
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General idea behind teaching-as-research

The classroom environment yields millions of data points each semester.

With some deliberate planning, a course can be a great place to conduct research.

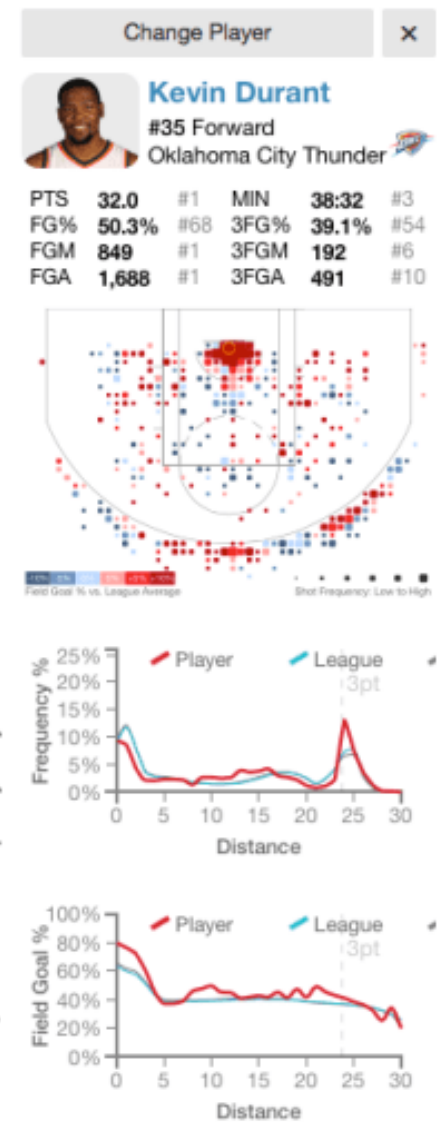
This research can provide a means to documenting and improving the course.

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This research can provide a means to documenting and improving the course.



Identify a research question

Course research starts with a good research question:

Are these good research questions? Could you modify these questions to make them more amenable to research?

- Are my students learning?
- Do students learn better when I use a particular teaching method?
- Do inquiry based labs help my students develop problem-solving skills?
- Which exam question format provides the best picture of student learning?

How could you improve these research questions?

First names A-C: Are my students learning?	First names D-H: Do students learn better when I use a particular teaching method?	First names I-M: Do inquiry based labs help my students develop problem-solving skills?	First names N-V Which exam question format provides the best picture of student learning?

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Elements of a good research question

Good research questions:

- Focus on specific phenomena
- Imply measureable outcomes
- Investigate tractable systems
- Can be completed with available resources
- Address a broader problem

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- Address a broader problem

Come up with a research question that you would want to investigate in your teaching.

Scale your project to the available resources

In considering your research design, you first need to think about how broadly you want to generalize your results.



My own
course



Other
courses like
mine



Other
courses in my
discipline



Undergraduate
STEM courses

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Other
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Undergraduate
STEM courses

The generalizability of your research depends on the nature of your research question and student population.

Only need IRB approval if you plan to present or publish publicly, (but check with your local IRB).

Designing your research methodology

Always put the education of your students first.

- The best studies are imperceptible to students.
- Don't tell your students they are guinea pigs or lab rats!
- Be careful about changing things mid-semester.

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- Be careful about changing things mid-semester.

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Choose a level of proof that is appropriate for your scope of inference.

An example of course-based research

Background: Clickers with Peer Instruction

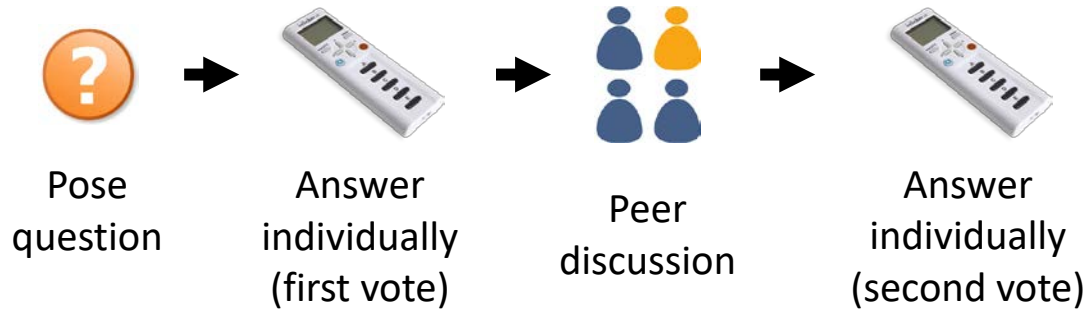
Crouch and Mazur (1996) Am J Physics
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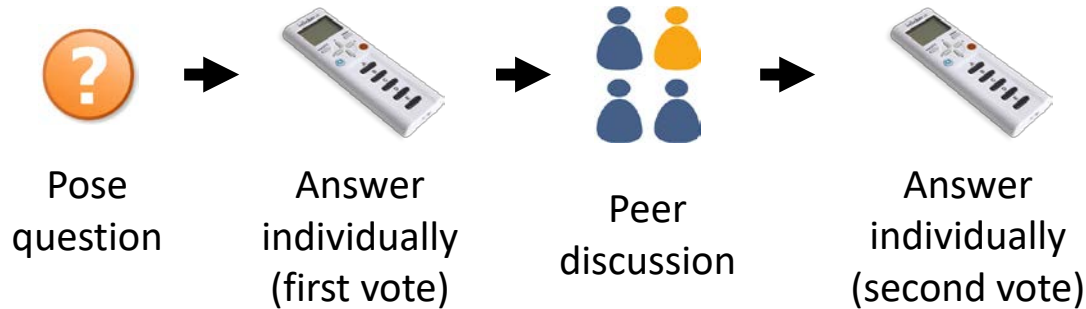


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Why Peer Discussion Improves Student Performance on In-Class Concept Questions

M. K. Smith,^{1*} W. B. Wood,¹ W. K. Adams,² C. Wieman,^{2,3} J. K. Knight,¹ N. Guild,¹ T. T. Su¹

Research question:

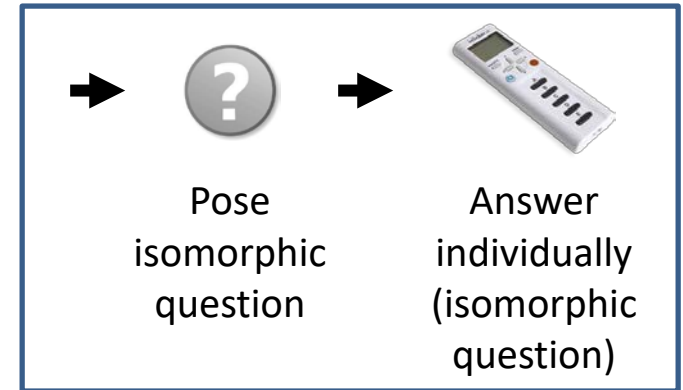
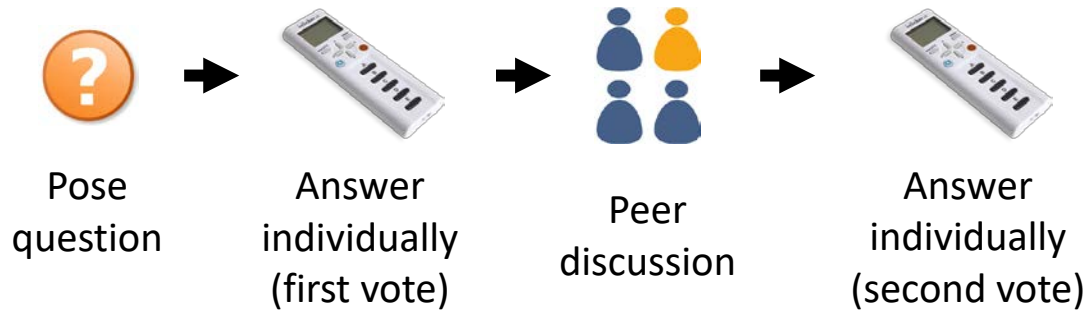
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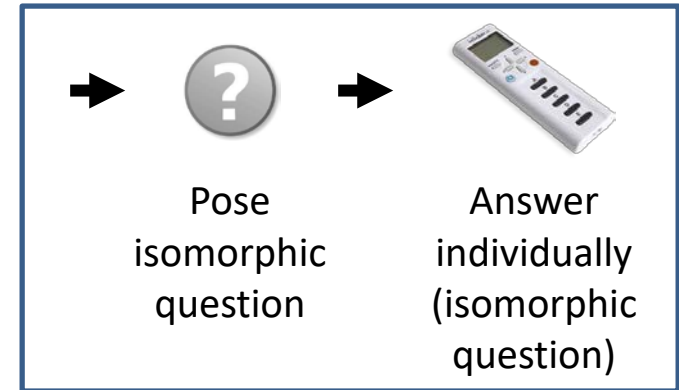
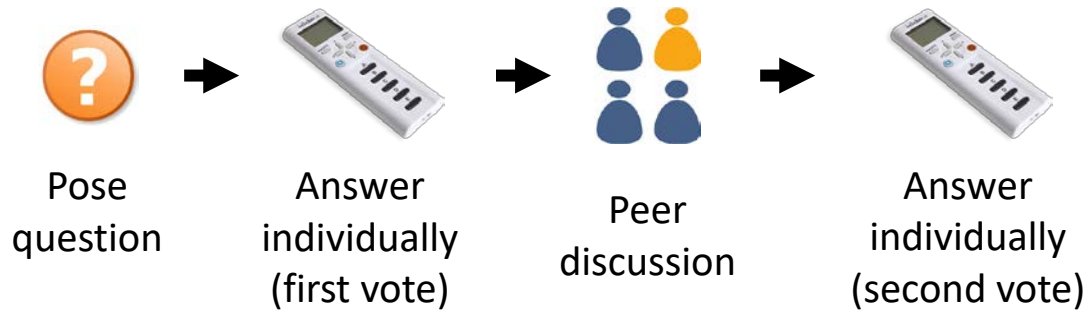
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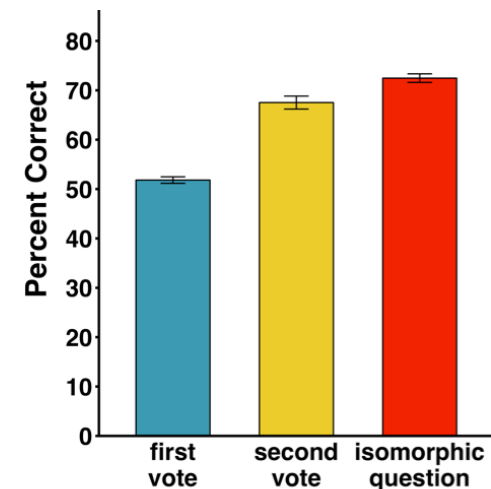


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Adapted from Smith et al. (2009) Science

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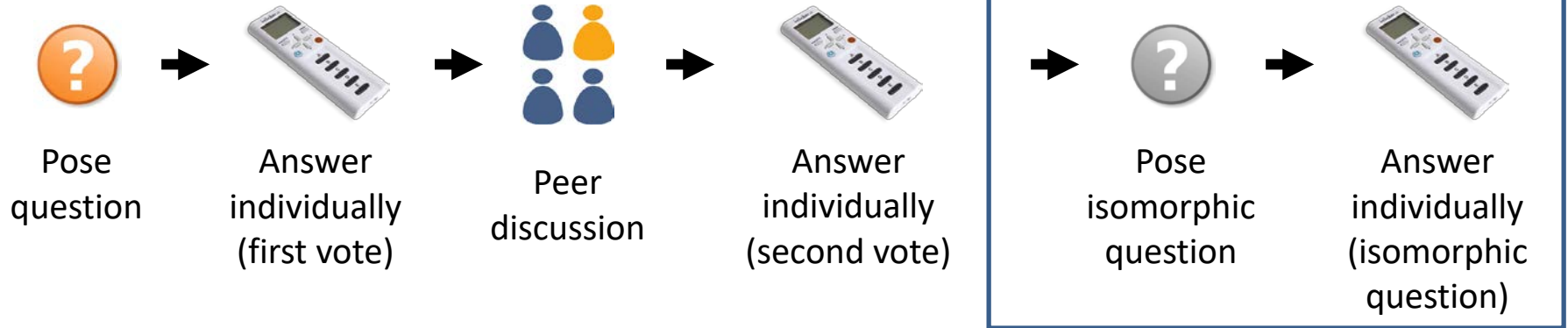
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An example of course-based research

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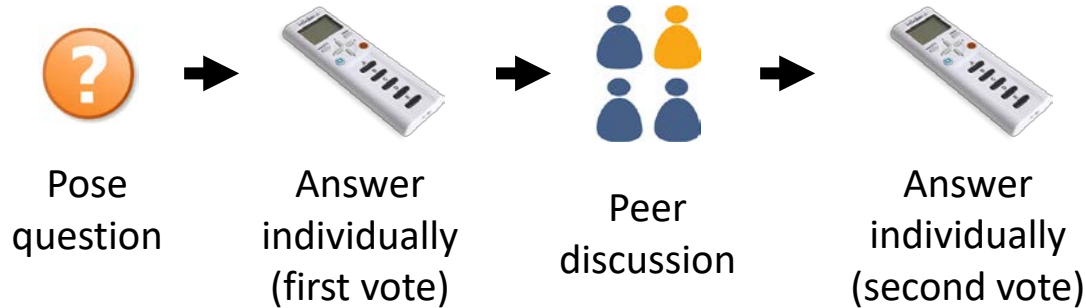


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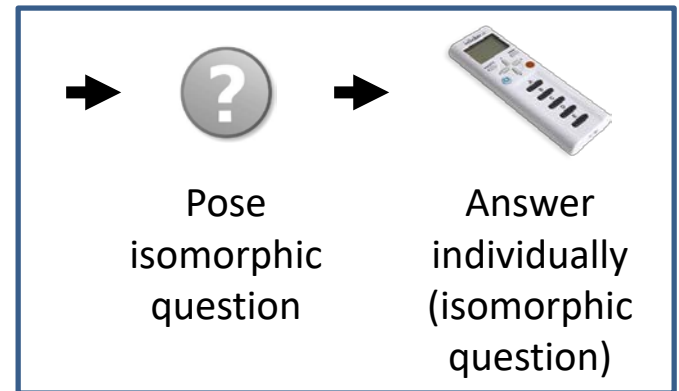
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ON LATER EXAMS

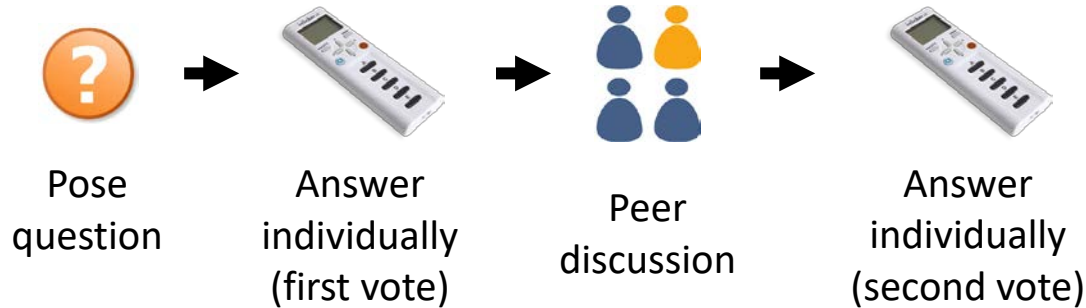


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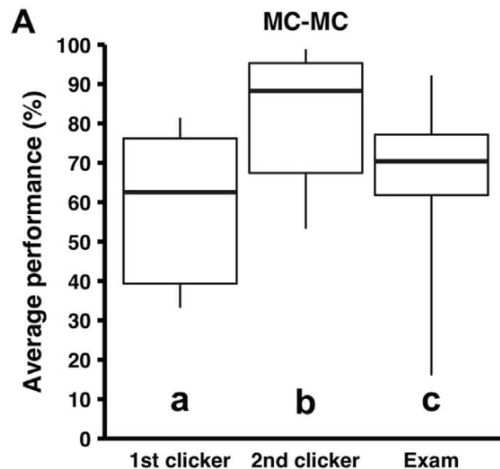
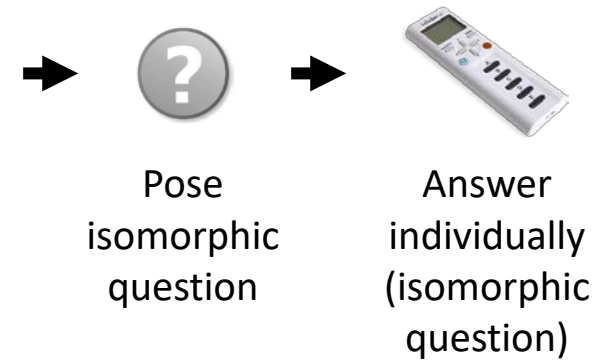
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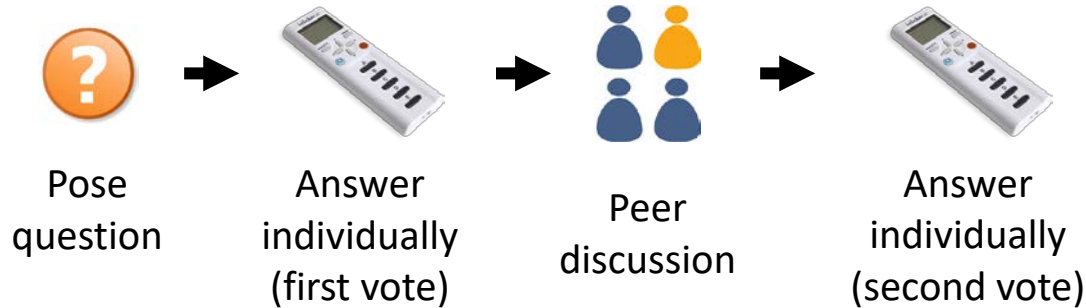


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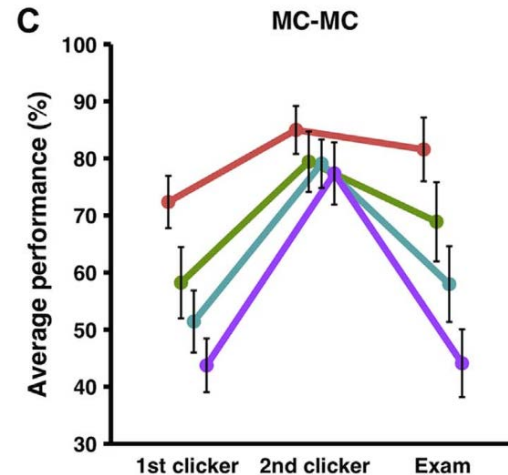
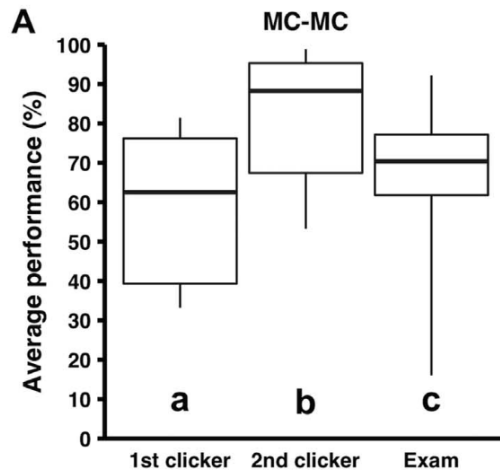
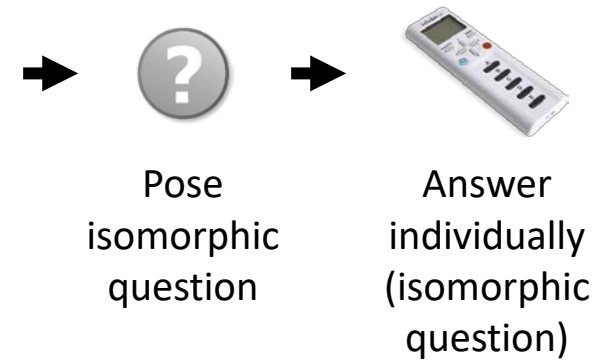
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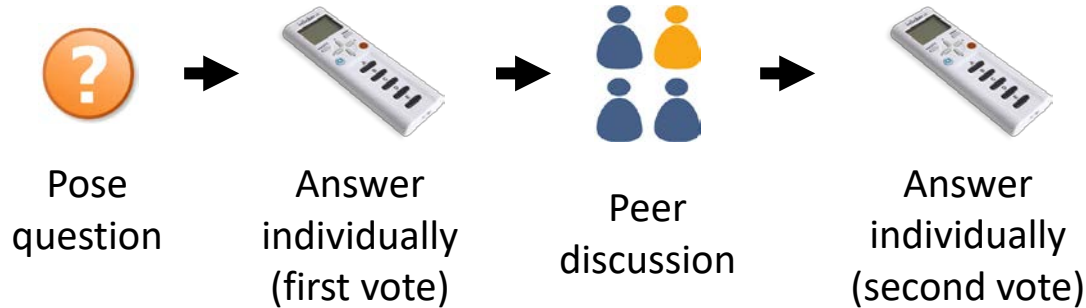
Quartile: 4th (top) 3rd 2nd 1st (bottom)

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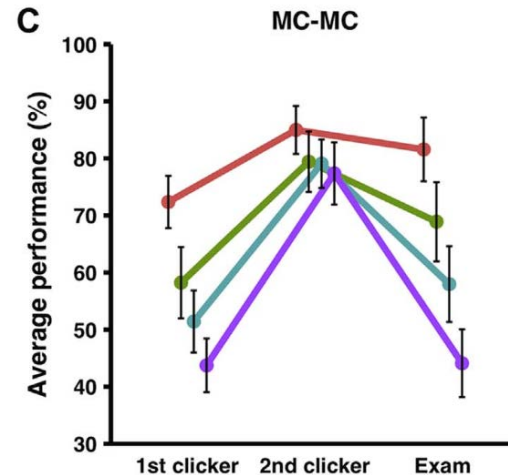
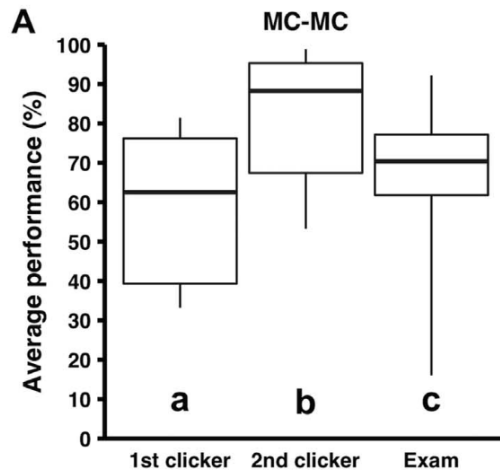
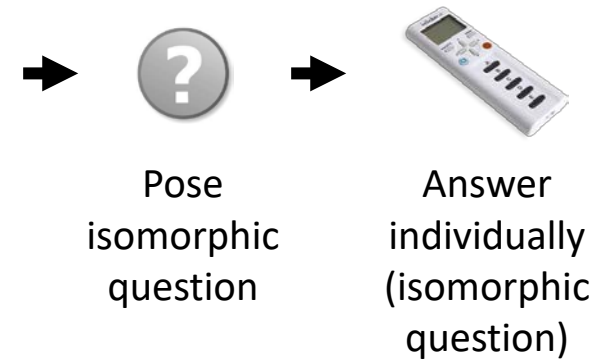
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Quartile: ● 4th (top) ● 3rd ● 2nd ● 1st (bottom)

To what level would you generalize these results?

Designing your own course research

1. What is your research question?
2. Does your research design require you to teach differently?
What will you need to do in your course?
3. What data will you collect? What will be your independent and dependent variables? What measurements will you use?
4. How will you analyze and interpret your results? What are the limits of what you will be able to conclude?
5. How might you incorporate your findings into your future teaching and professional advancement?

Honing your craft: Building a foundation for a lifetime of instructional improvement

Brian A. Couch

University of Nebraska
School of Biological Sciences

