

How To Teach Better

A Student's Perspective



Introduction

Hi! I am Abhishek. Today, we will discuss:

- Why it's important to be teach in a good way
- Two case studies
- What's wrong and how to fix it
- An assignment

Handouts:

abhishekkumar2718.github.io/interests/2019/08/12/how-to-teach-better.html

My experience

I have over...

- 12 years of been schooled.
- 1 year of college.
- 21 years of Indian parents.

Wait... You are 21?!

Nope, I like to duck around with people.

Importance of Teaching

For Club

- Members learn through teaching.
- Interaction with the incoming freshers.
- A plus point for CV (\$\$\$).

For Freshers

- Learn stuff.
- Interaction with seniors.

For Me

- I like the idea of becoming a professor.
- Opportunities like today are a way to test out.
- ACM offers the most teaching opportunities out of all exclusive clubs.
- *That's why ACM.*

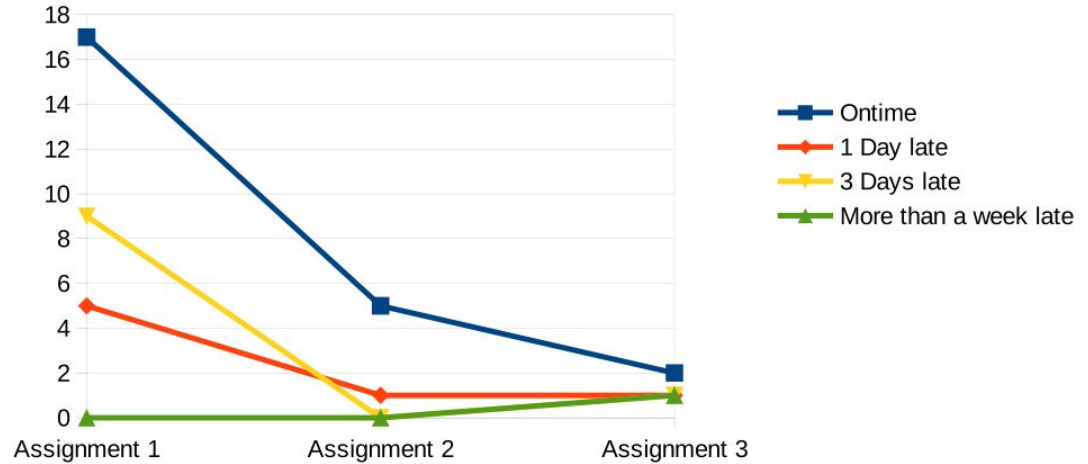
Participation Curve

Law of Participation: Number of participants decay exponentially as the duration increases.

- Taken from ACM Web Dev FIG of last year.
- Could conduct only 3 out of planned 10-12 sessions.
- Cited low student participation.
- Life's greatest achievement so far.

Frequency and time of Submission

ACM Web Dev FIG 2018



Simply,

Assignment 1 - 31 Submissions

Assignment 2 - 6 Submissions

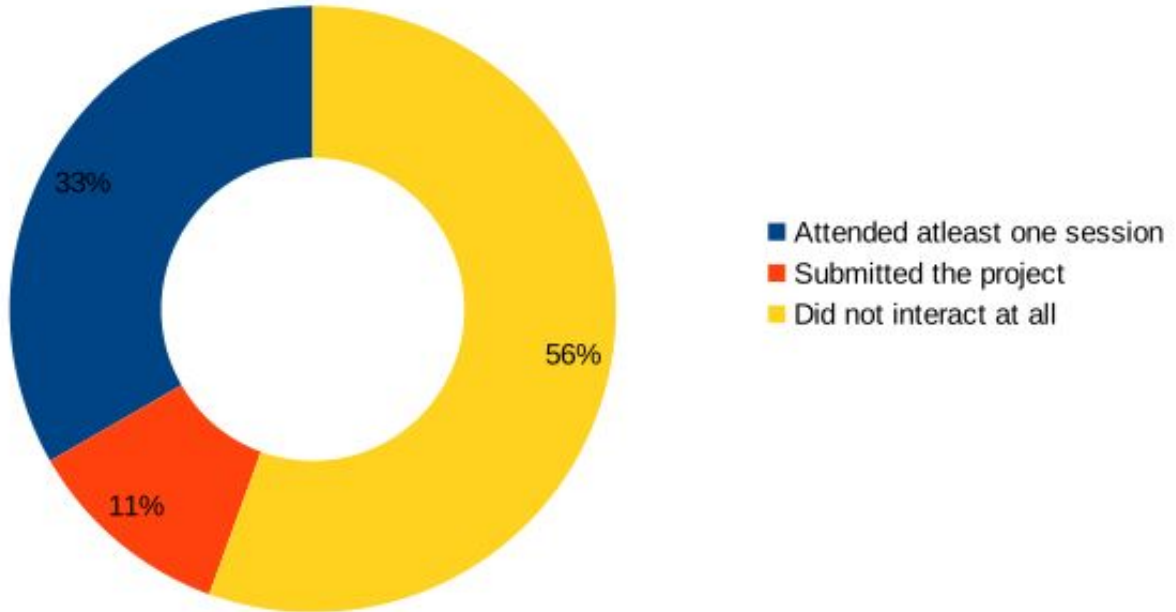
Assignment 3 - 4 Submissions

Volunteer Paradox

Even in a group of volunteer students, nearly half will never interact in a meaningful manner.

- Taken from RoR bootcamp last year.
- 56% of students didn't attend the first (and likely subsequent) session.

Student Participation in RoR Bootcamp



The students must be lazy!

Hang on a second.

What's wrong, then?

Here are some ideas I have.

Focus on What's Hard To Teach

- *“That guy is teaching nicely, but when will he start new topics?”*
- They never come up.
- Examples: Vim Workshop, Open Source Week; Physics Course

- Structure your content to spend the majority of time on advanced stuff.
- Review using questions, assignments and tests.

Give Feedback on Assignments

- Lack of feedback kills any motivation to work further and actively inhibits the process.
- Helps in identifying eager learners.
- I felt invisible and my efforts invalidated.
- A happier example: Reverse Engineering workshop.

- Dedicate some time for giving feedback before the deadlines.
- Have multiple rounds of reviews.

Add Tangible Rewards

What does the phrase 'Star-Crossed Lovers' mean?

- Asked this question in a prof comm. speech, got crickets
- Knowledge is not by and itself a goal for most people.
- *Pavlov's Dog* - Humans are not that rational either.
- Have small, tangible rewards in class and for assignments.

Build Towards A Large Goal

- Not having a well-defined goal makes the process uncertain.
- You will need to convince that it's a worthwhile effort.
- *Theatrics are a good idea.*
- Have a large, creative assignment at the end.

Be Enthusiastic

- Wanted to share my ideas on teaching with **someone**.
- Apathy shows up as a lack of effort.
- If the topic doesn't excite you, you cannot excite and inspire others.
- Be passionate about your topic.

Your Assignment

Nope, just a meme.

Thank you!

