

Thoughts and Questions

An Application to Support Just-in-Time
Teaching

By Maria Aldebarmakian, Kendall Harsch,
and Anna Yatskar

Table of Contents

Sections

Sign Up/Log In	2
Administrators (i.e. Instructors & TAs)	3
Assignments	3
Create/Edit Assignment	4
Submissions for Assignment	5
Comments	5
Student Statistics	7
Student Homework	8
Users (i.e. Students)	9
Phases	9
Homework Statistics	10
Writers	11
Promoters	12

Sign Up/Log In

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: not logged in Logged in as: not logged in Home Sign out

Sign Up

Name

Email (must be your @brandeis.edu address)

Password (8 characters minimum)

Password confirmation

[Log in](#)

Name: full name (i.e. first and last); will be anonymous to other students

Email: @brandeis.edu e-mail ONLY

Name: full name (i.e. first and last)

- you will be anonymous to other students in the class

Email: @brandeis.edu e-mail only

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: not logged in Logged in as: not logged in Home Sign out

Log In

Email

Password

☐ Remember me

[Sign up](#) [Forgot your password?](#)

Link to create an account

Administrators (i.e. Instructors & TAs)

Assignments

Upon signing in as an administrator, you will be directed to a table containing a list of all of your posted assignments. The current assignment (“current” label set during assignment’s creation or while editing) will be shaded in gray. From this page...

- ... you can access a list of all the questions (and comments) submitted by students for a given assignment.
- ... create new assignments and [Edit](#) or [Delete](#) existing ones. New assignments will be appended to the bottom of the table.
 - The students will see only those prompts (for Writers) and promotions (for Promoters) associated with the assignment you set as “current.” Note: be sure to have a current assignment set at all times (there may be only *one* such “current” assignment at any given time).

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator Logged in as: Professor X Home Sign out

List of Users
List of Assignments

Assignments

Title	Due Dates	Submissions	Editing Buttons
Assignment 1	Writing: April 1, 2015 at 12:00AM Promoting: April 28, 2015 at 12:00AM	Submissions List	Edit Delete
Assignment 2	Writing: April 3, 2015 at 12:00AM Promoting: April 10, 2015 at 12:00AM	Submissions List	Edit Delete

Current assignment is shaded.

New Assignment

Current Assignment is shaded

Link to create a new assignment

Link to submissions for this specific assignment

Edit or Delete this assignment

This is your Home page, accessible from anywhere on the site by clicking [“Home”](#) in the (black) site header.

Create/Edit Assignment

When you create a new assignment or edit an existing one, you will be taken to a form to fill in or edit the details of the assignment.

- Up to three (3) prompts may be posted for each assignment.
 - You have the option of selecting the percentage of submissions that will be shown to Promoters for each prompt. You must enter a percentage (0 – 100) that will represent the number of submissions Promoters are assigned to rate.
 - Note: The default percentage is 0% (i.e. Promoters will not rate any submissions for the given prompt).
- Set two (2) due dates, corresponding to the end of the writer and promoter phases respectively.
- Select the “Current” radio button to mark this assignment as such.
- Save any changes by clicking the “[Update/Create Assignment](#)” button at the bottom of the page.
 - Changes will be reflected in the List of Assignments table on the Assignments page ([Home](#) for administrators).

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator | Logged in as: Professor X | Home | Sign out

List of Users
List of Assignments

Edit Assignment

Title
Assignment 1 ← **Assignment Title**

Prompt 1
Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic? ← **Up to 3 prompts**

Show 100 % of submissions to Promoters
Note: If the above percentage is 30 and there are 40 student submissions for this prompt, promoters will be asked to complete promotions on a subset of 20 of those submissions.

Prompt 2
How does the Ecological Footprint address waste flows?

Show 0 % of submissions to Promoters ← **Enter % of submissions for this prompt to show to promoters**

Prompt 3
Are there any standards set for Ecological Footprint assessments?

Show 0 % of submissions to Promoters

Writing due
2015 April 1 00:00:00 ← **Enter due dates for two phases**

Promoting due
2015 April 28 00:00:00

☒ **Current** ← **Set this assignment as current**

← **Save this assignment**

[Back to Assignments](#)

Submissions for Assignment

In the List of Assignments table on the Assignments page is a link (i.e. “[Submissions List](#)”) to all of the students’ submissions.

- Submissions are presented in tabular form and separated by prompt, since an assignment may have up to three prompts associated with it.
- Submissions are ranked based on the percentage of positive promotions (i.e. “Discuss” ratings”) the question received during the promoter phase.
 - Highest-ranked submissions appear at the top of each prompt table, for easy access to those questions that should be discussed in the next lecture.
- You will see the submission content (i.e. Submission), the name of the writer (i.e. Writer), a link to comments submitted by Promoters regarding the submission (i.e. [Comments](#)), and a rating percentage representing the number of promotions it received.
- The Favorite column allows the professor to select those submissions that they believe are worth discussing at the next lecture.
 - To select a favorite submission, click on the toggle button “Select”; likewise, to deselect a favorited button, toggle “Deselect.” The submissions you select will be shaded gray.

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator Logged in as: Professor X Home Sign out

List of Users
List of Assignments

Submissions for Assignment

Favorite submissions are shaded.

Prompt 1: Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?

Sorted based on rating percentage

Favorite	Submission	Writer	Email	Comments	Student Rating
<input type="button" value="Deselect"/>	Can you explain the difference between a keystone species and an indicator species?	Billy Bob	billybob@brandeis.edu	Comments	100%
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	How does habitat fragmentation lead to speciation?	Sally Sue	sallysue@brandeis.edu	Comments	100%
<input type="button" value="Deselect"/>	How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?	Betty Bee	bettybee@brandeis.edu	Comments	100%
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	I do not understand what allopatric speciation means.	Jane Jean	janejean@brandeis.edu	Comments	0%
<input type="button" value="Select"/>	How much of our resources are lost in the process of completing a nutrient cycle?	John Jo	johnjo@brandeis.edu	Comments	0%

Select or deselect favorite submissions

Link to comment list

Prompt 2: How does the Ecological Footprint address waste flows?

Favorite	Submission	Writer	Email	Comments	Student Rating
----------	------------	--------	-------	----------	----------------

Comments

Clicking on the comments link (i.e. [Comments](#)) from the Submissions for Assignment page will reveal a page of comments submitted by Promoters as they were rating their classmates' submissions.

- Comments are optional in the promoter phase, so not all ratings will have a comment beside it.
 - The name of the promoter associated with a given comment is displayed, as well as whether this promoter wanted to “Discuss” this submission (or not, i.e. “Don’t Discuss”).

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator Logged in as: Professor X Home Sign out

List of Users
List of Assignments

Comments on Submission

How does habitat fragmentation lead to speciation?

Discuss	Comment	Promoter
Discuss	I would like to discuss this	Betty Bee

Back to Submissions List

Comment by promoter for this submission

Author of comment

Student Statistics

From the sidebar, you can also access a page (i.e. [List of Users](#)) that contains statistics regarding each student in the class. Beside student names and email addresses...

- ... is the “List of Submissions” column of the table, which includes a link (i.e. [Student homework](#)) to a page that displays all of the submissions by a particular user for all assignments.
- are the “Number of Submissions” and “Number of Promotions” columns, which contain the total number of submissions and promotions, respectively, that a particular user has submitted for all assignments thus far.
- ... are two columns that give a percentage describing the promoter merit of that student.
 - The “Promoter Merit (Professor)” percentage is calculated based on how often Promoters promoted the submission favored by the professor in the submission list.
 - *Formula:* Σ (times the student chose to discuss a submission favored by the professor) \div Σ (times the student saw a submission favored by the professor)
 - The “Promoter Merit (Student)” percentage is calculated based on how often Promoters promoted submissions that ended up in the top quartile of all submissions promoted for that prompt.
 - *Formula:* Σ (times the student chose to discuss a submission that ended up in the top quartile of all submissions for that prompt) \div Σ (times the student saw such a submission)
 - These two statistics of promoter merit are meant to provide a crude measurement of how “successful” of a reader/analyzer a promoter is.
- Administrators may also remove users from the platform by clicking the [Delete](#) link within the “Remove” column.

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator Logged in as: Professor X Home Sign out

List of Users
List of Assignments

Student Statistics

Name	E-mail	List of Submissions	Number of Submissions	Number of Promotions	Promoter Merit (Professor)	Promoter Merit (Students)	Remove User
Billy Bob	billybob@brandeis.edu	Student homework	5	0	0%	0%	Delete
Jane Jean	janejean@brandeis.edu	Student homework	4	0	n/a	n/a	Delete
Sally Sue	sallysue@brandeis.edu	Student homework	4	0	n/a	n/a	Delete
Lola Lou	lolalou@brandeis.edu	Student homework	3	0	n/a	n/a	Delete
Betty Bee	bettybee@brandeis.edu	Student homework	5	5	100%	100%	Delete
John Jo	johnjo@brandeis.edu	Student homework	2	0	n/a	n/a	Delete

Promoter merit compared to professor
 Promoter merit compared to other students
 Link to all submissions for this student
 # of total submissions
 # of total promotions completed
 Remove user

Student Homework

The [Student homework](#) link of the Student Statistics page will direct you to a page of all the submissions by a particular student for all assignments posted thus far.

- Each prompt of the assignment is displayed on its own row (i.e. Assignment Content), beside the submission of the Writer (i.e. Submission).

Thoughts and Questions

An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Administrator Logged in as: Professor X Home Sign out

List of Users

List of Assignments

Billy Bob's Submissions

Assignment Title	Assignment Content	Submission
Assignment 1 (Prompt 1)	Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?	Can you explain the difference between a keystone species and an indicator species?
Assignment 1 (Prompt 2)	How does the Ecological Footprint address waste flows?	I have not done the reading, sir, and so cannot comment on the prompt.
Assignment 1 (Prompt 3)	Are there any standards set for Ecological Footprint assessments?	Please forgive me for not having finished the unit.
Assignment 2 (Prompt 1)	What concept in the chapter on speciation did you find most confusing?	What are abiotic and biotic factors that effect populations?
Assignment 2 (Prompt 2)	What calculation was most difficult to understand from the ecology chapter?	Phosphates are lost in runoff. What is the most environmentally friendly way of regaining phosphorus in soil?

Back to Users

Users (i.e. Students)

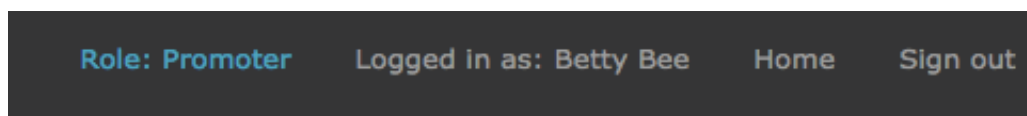
Phases

The Just-in-Time Teaching paradigm splits assignments into two phases: a writer phase and a promoter phase.

- The first (i.e. writer) phase consists of posting submissions in response to professor-generated prompts, often to be discussed during the next lecture.
- During the second (i.e. promoter) phase, these previously posted submissions are rated; the professor chooses among those submissions that received the highest rating (i.e. number of positive promotions) to discuss some submissions during the next lecture.

For each assignment, you, the student, will be assigned either a Promoter or a Writer Role.

- Since roles will change with each assignment, be sure to check your role each time a new assignment begins, as different roles perform different tasks at varying times (i.e. during their respective phases of the assignment). To discover your role for a given assignment, review the (black) site header upon logging in - your role for the current assignment will be displayed there.
 - If you log in during a phase that does not correspond to your role (as a Writer during the promoter phase or vice versa), you will be confronted with an Inactive page that notifies you of the next active phase.



- Upon logging in, you will automatically be directed to the appropriate view corresponding to your role for the current assignment.
 - You have the option of switching roles for the current assignment by going to the Homework Statistics link in your sidebar and clicking on the “Change Group” button if necessary.

Homework Statistics

The sidebar contains a Homework Statistics page (i.e. [Homework Statistics](#)”), which reveals a summary of details regarding the homework submitted by each individual.

- The student’s current role is displayed at the top of the page. Clicking the “Change Group” button allows the student to manage/change their assigned role (i.e. Writer or Promoter) for the current assignment.
- Also displayed is a tabular view of all of the student’s submissions per each prompt assigned thus far.
- Lastly, a table of all the promotions the student submitted including any optional comments you submitted and whether you chose to discuss or not discuss a submission.

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Writer Logged in as: Betty Bee Home Sign out

Homework Statistics

Current role: Writer
[Change Group](#)

Submissions

Assignment	Submission
Assignment 1: Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?	How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?
Assignment 1: How does the Ecological Footprint address waste flows?	Is bacteria involved in the carbon cycle? If so, how?
Assignment 1: Are there any standards set for Ecological Footprint assessments?	
Assignment 2: What concept in the chapter on speciation did you find most confusing?	How does genetic pollution cause the extinction of a species?
Assignment 2: What calculation was most difficult to understand from the ecology chapter?	What is a biome?
Assignment 2: What questions do you have regarding nutrient cycles?	I don't have any questions.

Ratings

Assignment	Submission	Comment	Vote
Assignment 1	How does habitat fragmentation lead to speciation?	I would like to discuss this	Discuss
Assignment 1	How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?		Discuss
Assignment 1	Can you explain the difference between a keystone species and an indicator species?		Discuss
Assignment 1	I do not understand what allopatric speciation means.		Don't Discuss
Assignment 1	How much of our resources are lost in the process of completing a nutrient cycle?		Don't Discuss

Annotations:

- Click to change group for current assignment (points to Change Group button)
- Submissions for all assignments thus far (points to Submissions table)
- Promotions for all assignments thus far (points to Ratings table)

Writers

If you are assigned a Writer role and the current assignment is in the writer phase, you will be taken to a page containing up to three (3) text boxes.

- There will be a prompt associated with each text box. Note: be sure to save each prompt response.
- You may edit your submissions until the writer phase ends.

Thoughts and Questions
An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching

Role: Writer Logged in as: Betty Bee Home Sign out

Homework Statistics
Assignment

Writer Phase

The Writer phase ends on April 1, 2015 at 12:00AM.

Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?

How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?

Save

How does the Ecological Footprint address waste flows?

Is bacteria involved in the carbon cycle? If so, how?

Indicates due date for writers

All prompts for assignment

Save each response

Promoters

If you are assigned a Promoter role for the given assignment and the assignment is in the promoter phase, you will see a page containing up to three (3) tables – each corresponding to one of the assignment's prompts, if more than one was posted by the professor – with a variable number of submissions that you must rate.

- You will either mark a submission with “Discuss” or “Don’t Discuss.”
 - You may also leave an optional comment to justify your rating. Note: be sure to save each of your ratings.

The screenshot shows the 'Promoter Phase' interface. At the top, a dark header contains the text 'Thoughts and Questions' and 'An Application to Support Just-in-Time Teaching'. On the right, it says 'Role: Promoter', 'Logged in as: Jane Jean', 'Home', and 'Sign out'. A left sidebar has 'Homework Statistics' and 'Assignment' links. The main content area is titled 'Promoter Phase' with a sub-header 'The Promoter phase ends on April 28, 2015 at 12:00AM.' Below this is a table with the prompt 'Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?'. The table has two columns: 'Submission' and 'Rating'. The first row shows a submission 'How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?' with rating options 'Discuss' and 'Don't Discuss', an 'Optional Comment' text box, and a 'Save' button. The second row shows 'How much of our resources are lost in the process of completing a nutrient cycle?' with similar options. The third row shows 'How does habitat fragmentation lead to speciation?' with 'Discuss' as the only visible option. Annotations with arrows point to the 'Assignment' link (labeled 'Indicates due date for promoters'), the 'Promoter Phase' title (labeled 'Choose to discuss or not discuss a submission. Add an optional comment'), and the 'Optional Comment' text box.

Submission	Rating
How do bacteria create and release nitrogen into soil?	<input type="radio"/> Discuss <input type="radio"/> Don't Discuss Optional Comment <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/>
How much of our resources are lost in the process of completing a nutrient cycle?	<input type="radio"/> Discuss <input type="radio"/> Don't Discuss Optional Comment <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/>
How does habitat fragmentation lead to speciation?	<input type="radio"/> Discuss

When you have completed all of the promotions assigned to you for a given prompt of the assignment, a message will alert you that have rated all of the submissions for that portion of the assignment.

This screenshot shows the 'Promoter Phase' interface after completion. The header and sidebar are the same as the previous screenshot. The main content area shows the prompt 'Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?' with the sub-header 'The Promoter phase ends on April 28, 2015 at 12:00AM.' Below the prompt, a message states 'You have completed all the promotions for this prompt.' An annotation with an arrow points to this message, labeled 'Indicates that you have completed all assigned promotions for this prompt'.

Is the Ecological Footprint too simplistic?
The Promoter phase ends on April 28, 2015 at 12:00AM.
You have completed all the promotions for this prompt.