#### Assessment and Evaluation Part I. Matching Feedback and Assessment to Online Activities

Curt Bonk, Professor, Indiana University President, SurveyShare, Inc. cjbonk@indiana.edu http://mypage.iu.edu/~cjbonk/ http://SurveyShare.com



# Is this motivating? How would you feel?

- · You take an online class.
- · You read some Web pages.
- Maybe you watch some videos or hear some audio clips.
- · Maybe you ponder some study review questions.
- You take a multiple choice test online.
- You receive an automated score on the test.
- Class is over.

## How about this scenario?

- · You take an online class.
- You "meet" your fellow students on the dhoard.
- You read some materials. You find and share some materials too.
- You participate in some discussions of course concepts.
- · You take a multiple choice test.
- · You receive automated score on the test.
- · Class is over.

# **Commentary on Scenario 1**

- · No interaction with peers.
- Students don't feel "missed" if they don't participate.
- Not clear why course is online (except perhaps for media elements).
- Potential for immediate feedback is nice --but assessment format is limiting.

# **Commentary on Scenario 2**

- Interaction with peers is great. Serves as a motivator.
- · Community is likely to develop.
- Students will feel involved and important if they share examples and resources.
- Assessment format may not be well aligned given the activities.
- Class lacks closure in a manner appropriate to the activities.

# Assessment and Learning

- Course objectives, activities, and assessments should be in alignment
  - This tends to be an issue in courses regardless of medium.
- Example:
  - In class students conduct a debate
  - Students are tested on their ability to recall facts

# Misaligned Online Learning & Assessment

- A not-uncommon scenario
  - Discussion is used as a learning activity
  - Students are required to participate
  - Participation is noted by how many messages were composed by a student
- But does this method measure learning? (No, it encourages fast, sloppy postings, not thoughtful dialogue)

## The Feedback Issue

- Students participating in online activities look for feedback to know:
  - The instructor is reading their contributions
  - Their participation is valued
  - Their participation is adequate, in terms of quality and quantity
  - Whole class commentary provided on a regular basis was found to be just as satisfactory from the student point of view (Dennen, 2001)

# The Assessment Issue

- Often, online activities go unassessed
  - -"Add-on" syndrome: Adding an online activity to a previously designed class because it sounds like a good idea

#### The Assessment Issue

- Students are more likely to participate when then know there is impact on their grade
  - Direct impact: graded on participation (quality, quantity or both)
  - Indirect impact: participation should bolster performance on other assessments
  - Students quickly become aware if an online activity is not related to assessed learning objectives

# Common Online Assessment Complaints

- Student perspective
  - If they're supposed to discuss, why doesn't that count as part of their grade?
  - If they're just supposed to do something, why does quality matter?
  - I just got a number, no feedback.
  - I didn't get participation feedback.

# Why Assess Process?

- Provides formative feedback on course
- Clarifies who is doing most work in small group assignments
- Helps prevent cheating
- Puts students on a schedule
- Shows that you care about their learning
- Improves communications and products

# Matching Online Assessments to Online Pedagogies: Choices, Challenges, and Concerns

## **Sample Instructor Concerns**

- -What can I do?
- -There's too much to assess!
- -What to assess?
- -Who did the work?



#### **Assessment Choices**

- Teacher-Led or Student-led (Self or Peer)
- Daily/Weekly (formative or Unit-Based (summative)
- Public or Private
- · Process or Product



# **Assessment Choices**

- · Rubric-based or Wholistic
- Doing or Receiving Knowledge
- Writing-Intensive or Exam-Based
- Portfolio-Based/Cumulative or Taskby-Task



## **Assessment Choices**

- · Posted within CMS system
- · Negotiated syllabus or Preordained
- · Online tests or Paper-based
- Grades for amount of length of postings



· Summative tasks or individual

# **Assessment Challenges**

- Knowing all the options.
- · Knowing all the tools.
- · Keeping up with students.
- · Detecting cheating and plagiarism.
- · Too much to assess.
- · Students frustrations.
- · To show you value each student.



#### **Assessment Concerns**

- Fairness: How does this compare to FTF classes?
- · Expediency: will it ever end?
- · Meaning: Making sense of it all.
- System Downtime: What if system loses work?



#### Exploring Four Dimensions of Online Instructor Roles: A Program Level Case Study (Liu, Bonk, Magjuka, Lee, & Su, 2005)

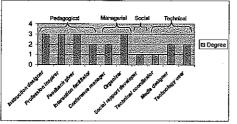


Figure 1. Instructors' preferences for different roles based on interview findings (High priority=3, Medium=2, Low priority=1)

# Pedagogical Strategies Used (KD Program)

Strategies	Courses in use (%)	
Group change by each assignment	2 (7%)	
Group discussion	23 (85%)	
Group-level deliverables	21 (78%)	
Internal interaction (critique, feedback, idea sharing)	9 (33%)	
Peer evaluation	5 (19%)	
Combination of groupwork and individual work	21 (78%)	

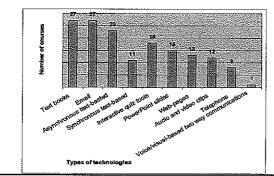
## Pedagogical Strategies Used (KD)

Assessment tasks (methods)	Frequency (*)
1. Asynchronous discussions	11
2. Quizzes and exams	7
3. Case analysis	6
4. Problem analysis (involves calculation)	6
5. Projects	3
6. Simulations	2
7. Essays	1
8. Reflections	1
9. Peer eval. on team contribution	1

# Social Strategies Used (KD Program)

Strategies	Courses in use (%)	
Online coffee house	2 (7%)	
Online introduction forum	2 (7%)	
Personnel profile	27 (100%)	
Other social events	5 (19%)	

## Technological Strategies Used (Bonk et al., 2004-2007)



# Instructional activities to promote interactions

Instructional Activities	Course used	Course not used	Percentage of usage
Asking/responding to instructor questions	27	0	100%
Feedback on assignments	27	0	100%
Summary of class key points/concepts	26	i	96%
Instructor participation in discussions	25	2	93%
Team-based learning activities	22	5	81%
Assessing participation in discussions	18	9	67%
Small team discussions	11	16	41%
Peer evaluation	5	22	19%
Inter-team feedback/critique	4	23	15%
Bulletin board to express expectations	4	23	15%
Virtual office hours	3	24	11%
Student antine coffee house	2	25	7%
Student introduction forum	2	25	7%

# Study 2005-2007, Dr. Shijuan Liu Assessed 5 Master's Programs

- Ed Tech, fully online
- Language Education, fully online
- Adult education, blended (1 course FTF)
- MBA, blended (2 courses FTF)
- Nursing (6 core courses online; rest FTF)

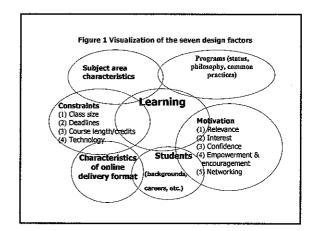
# Assessment in Five Online Master's Programs

Assessment tasks	Frequency	Assessment tasks	Frequency	
Participation in asynchronous discussions	16 instructors (17 courses)	13. Reading and summartzing	2 Instructors (3 courses)	
2. Critiques	10 Instructors	14. Concept mapping	2	
3. Essays	8 instructors (11 courses)	15. Learning contracts	2	
4. Projects	9 instructors	16. Portfolio	2	
5. Field reports	7	17. Participation other than asyn. discussion	2	
6. Reflections	7 .	18. PPT presentation	1	
7. Quizzes and exams	5 Instructors (6 courses)	19. Critique log	1	
8. Students create questions (design activities)	4 Instructors (6 courses)	20. Peer editing	1	
9. Case analysis	3	21. Other	2	
10. Questions and answers	3			
11. Collecting information and sources	3	* 20 instructors, 22 courses (for each task, studying how, why)		
12. Inventory	3			

# What are the goals?

- · Knowledge and skills?
- Critical thinking?
- · Demonstrate understanding?
- Acquire learning experiences?
- Observe expert models?
- · Form a learning community?
- Collaboration and team skills?





# **Opportunities (Liu, 2008)**

- Easily tracking student discussion (archived)
- · Reusing feedback given to students
- Automatic grading
- · Flexibility in time and location
- More depth
- · Chance to improve writing
- · Help become better thinkers



# Challenges (Liu, 2008)

- Less variety in assessment formats
- · Not able to assess "in the moment"
- · Feedback needs to be very clear
- · Hard to grade quality of discussions
- · Inflexibility in making changes
- Time consuming



#### Additional Challenges (Liu, 2008)

- Pressure to grade "in class" discussion.
- · Students can cheat.
- Students skip anything not graded.
- Instructors cannot assess nonverbal.



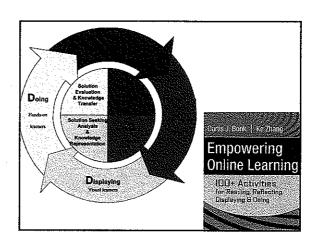
## **Instructor Practices (Liu, 2008)**

- Assessment practices were continuous, ongoing, clear, real world, and diverse.
- Final products were typically writing (high in cognitive domain, higher-order thinking)
- · Much reflective writing
- · Flexibility, control, active, self-directed
- · Higher order thinking skill emphasis
- · Asynchronous discussions
- · Quizzes and exams (subject areas)

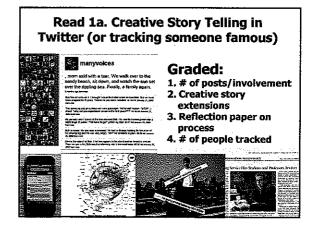


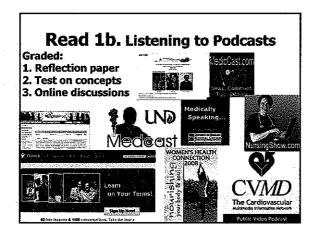
# Time to Match Online Pedagogy to Online Assessments

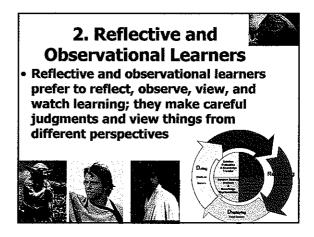
- 1. Traditional and Self-Test Online Exams
- 2. Web Lecture Discussions and Reflections
- 3. Online Video (YouTube) Reflections
- 4. Online Explorations and Quests
- 5. Case and Vignette Solutions
- 6. Blog Reflections
- 7. Synchronous Chat Reflections
- 8. Performance in Simulations and Role Play
- 9. Product Creations: e.g., YouTube, Wikibooks
- 10.Cross Institutional Collaborations

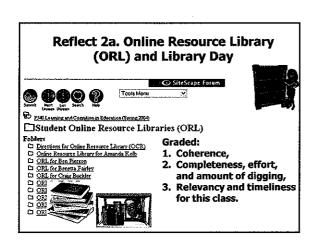


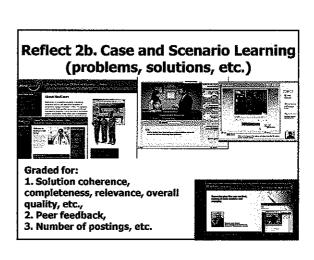
# Auditory or Verbal Learners Auditory and verbal learners prefer words, spoken or written explanations. Dougle Company of the compan



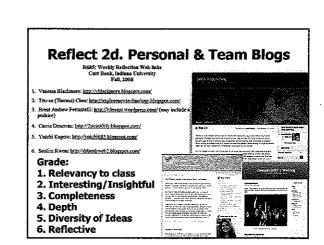


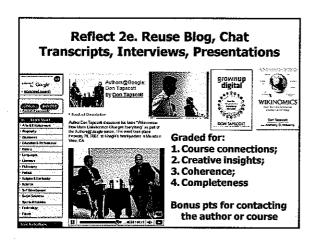


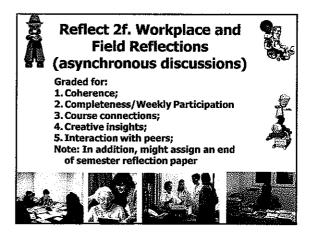


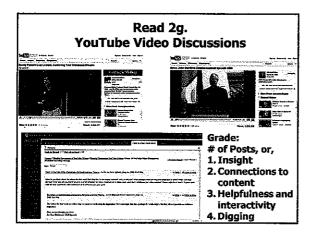


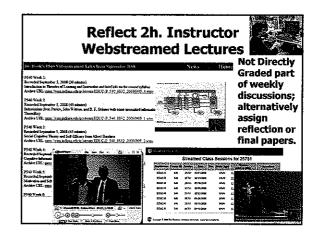
# Reflect 2c. Paired Weblog Critiques (Randy Garrison & Norm Vaughn, Univ. of Calgary) Graded: 1. Critical thinking displayed: sound analysis and evaluation, logical, backs up claims 2. Coherent and Complete: logical flow to the critique or review, unity, well organized, sequence 3. Learning displayed: breadth/depth of thought, knowledge growth, understands theories. Article Ar

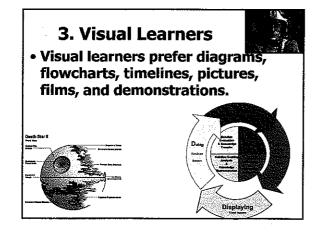


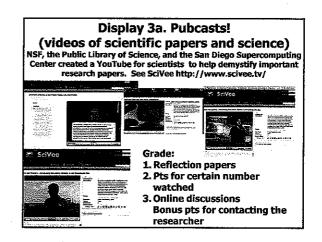


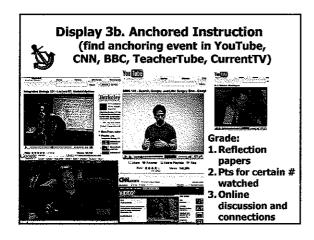


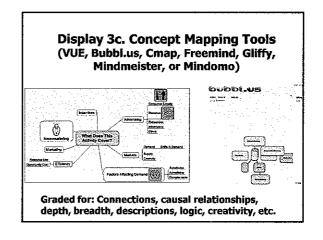


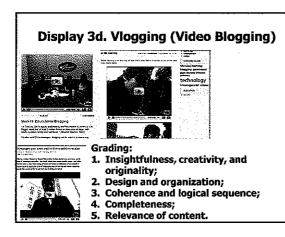


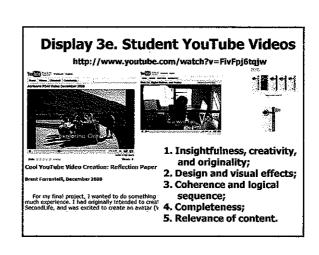


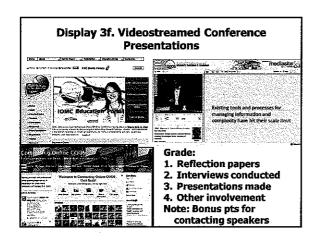


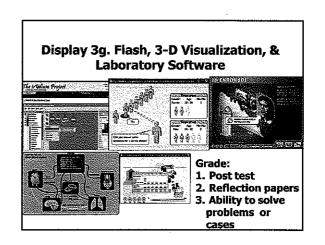


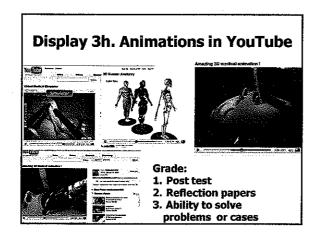


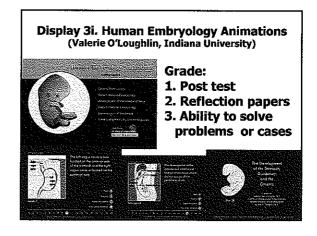


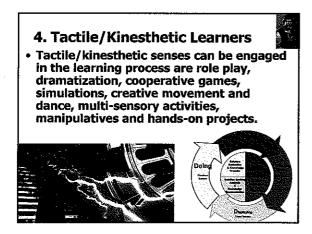


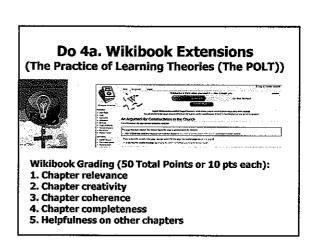


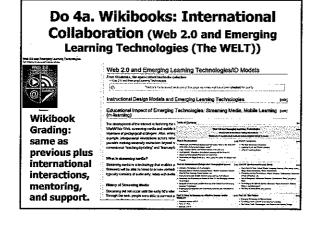


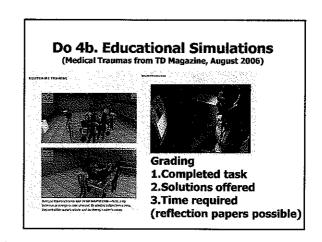


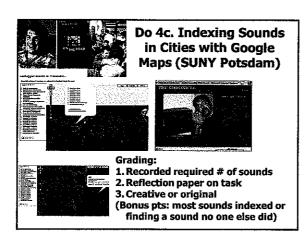


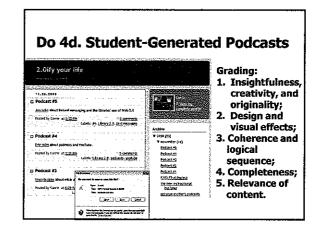


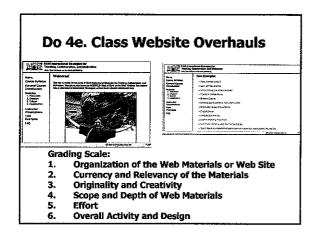


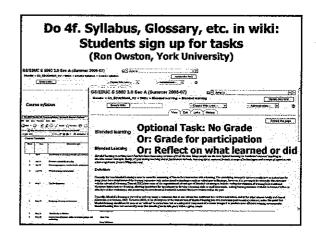


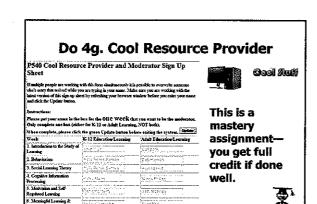








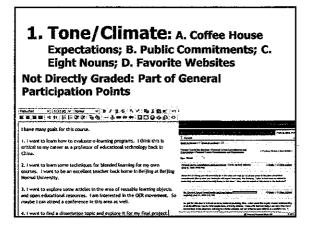


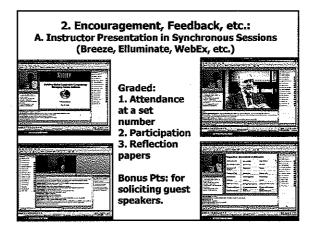


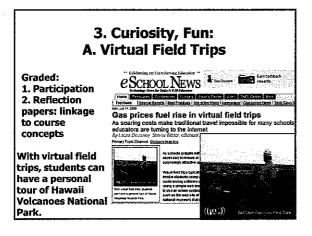
Singram & Silver

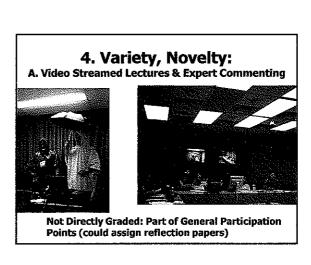
# Online Motivation and Retention 1. Tone/Climate: Psych Safety, Comfort, Belonging 2. Encouragement, Feedback: Responsive, Supports 3. Curiosity: Fun, Fantasy, Control ... 4. Variety: Novelty, Intrigue, Unknowns 5. Autonomy: Choice: Flexibility, Opportunities 6. Relevance: Meaningful, Authentic, Interesting 7. Interactive: Collaborative, Team-Based, Community 8. Engagement: Effort, Involvement, Excitement 9. Tension: Challenge, Dissonance, Controversy 10. Yields Products: Goal Driven, Products, Success, Ownership

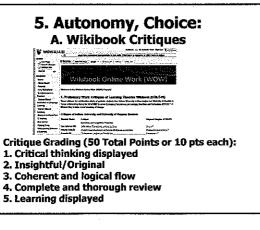
**TEC-VARIETY Model for** 

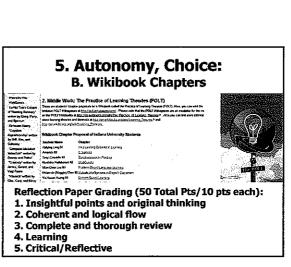


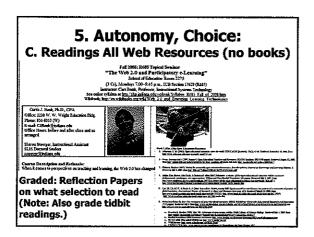


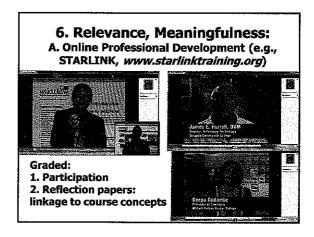












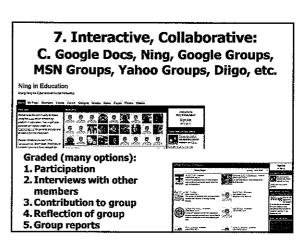


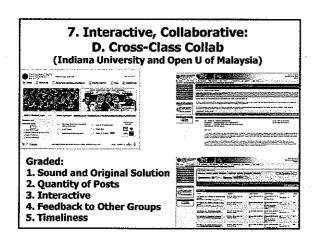
Wrapper (Hara, Bonk, & Angeli, 2000)

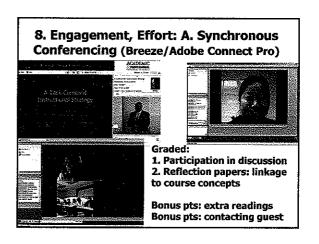
Starter reads ahead and starts discussion and others participate and wrapper summarizes what was discussed. (could add debate roles: optimist, pessimist, devil's advocate).

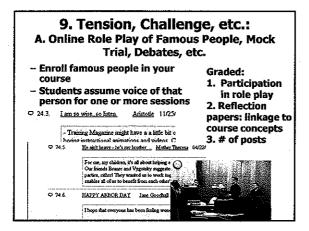
Graded for: Promptness, Depth, Interactivity, Uniqueness

**Or: Task Completion** 

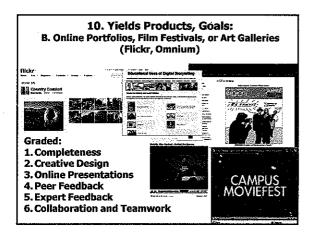












# 25 Time-Saving Tips

- 1. Ask yourself "can I reasonably assess it?"
- 2. Rely on peers for providing some feedback (critical friends, email pals, Web buddies)
- 3. Let students know what to expect up front and when.
- Get advice on tools (e.g., use editing & commenting tools).
- Use rubrics! (can design grading template in Word and highlight problems or successes for each student).

# 25 Time-Saving Tips

- Set aside days or times in calendar for online class.
- 7. Paste examples & comments from previous semester.
- Have students update your course Web site as an independent or optional course project.
- Bring in experts or practitioners for feedback.
- 10. If more than 25 or 30 students, ask for help grading.

# 25 Time-Saving Tips

- 11. Use summary comment emails.
- 12. Grade some discussions quantitatively.
- 13. Have students brainstorm assessments with you.
- 14. Put tentative syllabus in a wiki.
- 15. READ! (books, articles, etc.)

# 25 Time-Saving Tips

- 16. Bring back former students for testimonials about assessments.
- 17. Be flexible for turning in assignments (drop boxes, fax, email, mail, etc.)
- 18. PDF assignment feedback.
- 19. Post or share anonymous examples of prior student work.
- 20. Sample student work!

# 25 Time-Saving Tips

- 21. Use detailed syllabus!
- 22. Have something due early (test system).
- 23. Use groups for some assignments.
- 24. Impose personal time deadlines for each paper.
- 25. Ask Dr. Shijuan Liu for her dissertation; sliu10@calstatela.edu, shijuanliu@hotmail.com

"Use of Assessment Tasks in Online Graduate Courses: Instructors' Practices, Reflections, and Perceptions"

## **Some Book Resources**

- Comeaux, P. (Ed.). (2005). Assessing online learning. Boston, MA: Anker Publishing Company Inc.
- Morgan, C., & O'Reilly, M. (1999).
   Assessing open and distance learners.
   London, UK: Kogan Page Limited.
- Oosterhof, A., Conrad, R., & Ely, D. (2007).
   Assessing learners online. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

# Part 2. Online Plagiarism and Cheating



#### **Increasing Cheating Online**

(\$7-\$30/page, http://www.syllabus.com/ January, 2002, Phillip Long, Plagiarism: IT-Enabled Tools for Deceit?)

- http://www.academictermpapers.com/
- http://www.termpapers-on-file.com/
- http://www.nocheaters.com/
- · http://www.cheathouse.com
- http://www.realpapers.com/
- http://www.pinkmonkey.com/

("you'll never buy Cliffnotes again")

# Sample Paper Assistance (i.e., Cheating) Sites



# **Plagiarizing Plagiarism**

(June 8, 2003; Dartmouth Review)

- "Michael Heberling—an author at the Chronicle and president of Baker College for Graduate Studies—read an article written in Syllabus magazine that looked remarkably like his own piece. The subject of the plagiarist's piece: plagiarism."
- the offending author, a graduate student, apologized for any passages accidentally cut-and-pasted into her own article. Her excuse: 'deadline pressure.

#### Ways to Reduce Cheating Online

(How to Proctor from a distance, Dan Carnevale, Chronicle of Higher Ed, Dec., 12, 1999; http://www.syllabus.com/ January, 2002, Phililip Long, Plagiarism: IT-Enabled Tools for Decelt?)

- 1. Are they relevant, challenging, and tasks you can build on?
- Use proctored exams
- 3. Require cameras during discussions & tests
- Get to know your students better through discussions and chats
- 5. Give random quizzes using chat tool
- 6. Write a long essay at start of semester to serve as an index of writing style
- 7. When in doubt, place document into a search engine (Eve2 or Turnitin.com)

# **Resources for Reducing Cheating Online**

(\$7-\$30/page, http://www.syllabus.com/ January, 2002, Phillip Long, Plagiarism: IT-Enabled Tools for Deceit?)

- · http://www.turnitin.com/ (software, \$100, free 30 day demo/trial)
- http://www.copycatch.freeserve.co.uk/ (free in UK)
- http://www.canexus.com/ (Eve2 software; essay verification engine, \$19.95)
- http://www.plagiarism.org/ (resource)
- http://www.academicintegrity.org/ (assoc.)
- · http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm (guide)

#### (B) Turnitin.com Turnitin A sorvice of Paradigms, LLC Sweet a Language: English + Ø) WriteCycle has yielded the turnitin best first-round essays I've ever seen. ≨ Sign in New Users Click Here Introducing WriteCycle Learn More What is Turnitin WriteCycle? News & Releases "How Original" - The Founding of Tymitin 2009 Paradisma CEO, John N., Berne, PN.D. details company's resta in prische for The Ricchamical Society.....(mcm)

More Ways to Reduce Cheating Online (How to Proctor from a distance, Dan Carnevale, Chronicle of Higher Ed, Dec., 12, 1999)

- 8. Vary items in exam
- 9. Have timed exams
- 10. Make course too hard to cheat
- 11. Random selection of items for item pool
- 12. Use mastery learning for some tasks
- 13. Assign collaborative tasks

# Still More Ways to Reduce Cheating Online

- 14. Use test passwords, keycodes, pins, picture ID, email list checks
- 15. Iris scanning, Palm Print, fingerprint, voice recognition, iris scanning, facial scanning, handwriting recognition
- 16. Rely on computer IP# screening
- Set expectations (e.g., scholarly integrity, syllabus procedures)
- 18. Emphasize consequences (e.g., stories of past offenders)
- 19. Have students make a vow of no cheating (e.g., Univ of Virginia)

#### More Ideas: (Promoting Academic Integrity) (June 16, 2003, TLTL, IU Anti-Plagiarism Strats)

- 19. Help students recognize citation probs
  - > Examples, cases, Web sites, 1 credit course
- 20. Help Faculty and TAs recognize problems
  - Examples, cases, practice grading, discuss
- 21. Provide practice in citing properly

  > Interactive workshops, discussions
- 22. Design assignments to minimize dishonesty and poor citation
- Provide frameworks, well designed prompt
- 23. Hold students accountable
- 24. Plan for special situations
- 25. Use available support

## Give a Plagiarism Test (Ted Frick, Indiana University)

What is Plagiarism at Indiana University?

A Start Concept Leaves by <u>Tell Frick</u>

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a. Quetes another person's actual ports, althor oral or written

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Left see if you understood

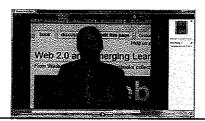
# Still More Ways to Reduce Cheating Online (McMurty (2001) E-Cheating: Combating a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenge, Tech Horizons in Ed, 29(4), 36-41.

- 26. Require prewriting steps such as an outline and rough draft
- 27. Require electronic paper submission
- 28. Design writing assignments with high specificity, not open-ended (harder to find a match in a pool)
- 29. Use Google to search for phrases that do not appear to be from a particular student
- 30. Peruse "paper help" (i.e., cheat) sites

# **Tips on Authentification**

- 31. Check e-mail access against list
- 32.Use password access
- 33.Provide keycode, PIN, or ID #
- 34.Futuristic Other: Palm Print, fingerprint, voice recognition, iris scanning, facial scanning, handwriting recognition, picture ID

# Part 3: Bonk's E-Learning Evaluation Model



# What to Evaluate?

- 1. Learner-attitudes, learning, jobs.
- 2. Instructor—popularity, course enrollments.
- 3. Training—internal and external.
- 4. Task--relevance, interactivity, collaborative.
- Tool--usable, learner-centered, friendly, supportive.
- 6. Course—interactivity, completion rates.
- 7. Program—growth, long-range plans.
- 8. Organization or University—cost-benefit, policies, vision.

#### Bonk et al.'s (2007) Online Learning Assessment and Evaluation Model

#### Considerations in Evaluation Plan

Organization
7. Program
6. Course
5. Tech Tool

8. University

1. Student
2. Instructor

3. Training 4. Task

Bonk, C. J., Wisher, R. A. & Champagne, M. V. (In press).

Toward a comprehensive model of e-learning evaluation: The Components

#### 1. Measures of Student Success

(Focus groups, interviews, observations, surveys, exams, records)

- Positive Feedback, Recommendations
- Increased Comprehension, Achievement
- · High Retention in Program
- Completion Rates or Course Attrition
- Jobs Obtained, Internships
- Enrollment Trends for Next Semester

# 1. Student Basic Quantitative

- · Grades, Achievement
- Number of Posts
- Participation
- Computer Log Activity—peak usage, messages/day, time of task or in system
- Attitude Surveys

#### **Measures of Student Success**

(Focus groups, interviews, observations, surveys, exams, records)

- Increased Comprehension & Achievement
- High Student Attitudes
- · High Retention, Completion Rates in Program
- . Jobs Obtained, Internships
- Enrollment Trends for Next Semester
- · Grades, Achievement, Certifications
- Computer Log Activity; e.g., Number of Posts, Participation, Messages/day, Time in System

# 1. Student High-End Success

- Message complexity, depth, interactivity, q'ing
- · Collaboration skills
- Problem finding/solving and critical thinking
- · Challenging and debating others
- Case-based reasoning, critical thinking measures
- · Portfolios, performances, PBL activities

## 2. Instructor Success

- · High student evals; more signing up
- High student completion rates
- Utilize Web to share teaching
- Course recognized in tenure decisions
- Varies online feedback and assistance techniques

# 3. Training Outside Support

- Training (FacultyTraining.net)
- Courses & Certificates (JIU, Wisconsin)
- · Reports, Newsletters, & Pubs
- Aggregators of Info (Meriot, Connexions)
- Global Forums (SCoPE)
- Resources, Guides/Tips, Link Collections, Online Journals, Library Resources

# 3. Training Inside Support...

- Instructional Consulting
- Mentoring (strategic planning \$)
- . Small Pots of Funding
- Facilities
- Summer and Year Round Workshops
- · Office of Distributed Learning
- Colloquiums, Tech Showcases, Guest Speakers
  - Newsletters, guides, active learning grants, annual reports, faculty development, brown bags

# RIDIC<sup>5</sup>-ULO<sup>3</sup>US Model of Technology Use

# 4. Tasks (RIDIC):

- Relevance
- Individualization
- Depth of Discussion
- Interactivity
- Collaboration-Control-Choice-Constructivistic-Community

# RIDIC<sup>5</sup>-ULO<sup>3</sup>US Model of Technology Use

# 5. Tech Tools (ULOUS):

- Utility/Usable
- Learner-Centeredness
- Opportunities with Outsiders Online
- Ultra Friendly
- Supportive

# 6. Course Success

- · Few technological glitches/bugs
- Adequate online support
- Increasing enrollment trends
- Course quality (interactivity rating)
- · Monies paid
- · Accepted by other programs

# 7. Online Program or Course Budget (i.e., how pay, how large is course, tech fees charged, # of courses, tuition rate, etc.)

- Indirect Costs: learner disk space, phone, accreditation, integration with existing technology, library resources, on site orientation & tech training, faculty training, office space
- Direct Costs: courseware, LMS or CMS, instructor, help desk, books, seat time, bandwidth and data communications, server, server back-up, course developers, postage

# 8. Institutional Success

- . E-Enrollments from
  - new students, alumni, existing students
- Additional grants
- · Press, publication, partners, attention
- Orientations, training, support materials
- · Faculty attitudes
- Acceptable policies (ADA compliant)

# Other E-Learning Evaluation Models



#### Quality on the Line:

Benchmarks for Success in Internet-Based Distance Ed (Blackboard & NEA, 2000)

#### **Teaching/Learning Process**

- Student interaction with faculty is facilitated through a variety of ways.
- Feedback to student assignments and questions is provided in a timely manner.
- Each module requires students to engage themselves in analysis, synthesis, and evaluation as part of their course assignments.
- Course materials promote collaboration among students.
  - http://www.ihep.com/Pubs/PDF/Quality.pdf

#### Quality on the Line: Benchmarks for Success

in Internet-Based Distance Ed (Blackboard & NEA, 2000)

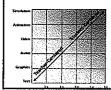
#### Other Benchmark Categories:

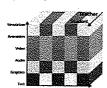
- · Institutional Support: incentive, rewards, plans
- Course Development: processes, guidelines, teams, structures, standards, learning styles
- Course Structure: expectations, resources
- · Student Support: training, assistance, info
- Faculty Support: mentoring, tech support
- Evaluation and Assessment: review process, multiple methods, specific standards



The Sharp Edge of the Cube: Pedagogically Driven Instructional Design for Online Education Syllabus Magazine, Dec, 2001, Nishikant Sonwalkar

- five functional learning styles apprenticeship, incidental, inductive, deductive, discovery.
- http://www.syllabus.com/syllabusmagazine/article.asp?id=5858





New Methodology for Evaluation: The Pedagogical Rating of Online Courses Syllabus Magazine, Jan, 2002, Nishikant Sonwalkar

#### The Pedagogical Effectiveness Index:

- (1) Learning Styles: (see previous page)
- (2) Media Elements: text, graphics, audio, video, animation, simulation
- (3) Interaction Elements: feedback, revision, email, discussion, bulletin

http://www.syllabus.com/syllabusmagazine/article.asp?id=5914

For more info, e-mail: Nish@mit.edu

New Methodology for Evaluation: The **Pedagogical Rating of Online Courses** Syllabus Magazine, Jan, 2002, Nishikant Sonwalkar

Summative evaluation instrument for rating online courses:

- (1) Content Factors: quality, media, authentic
- (2) Learning Factors: interactivity, testing & feedback, collaboration, ped styles
- (3) Delivery Support Factors: accessible, reporting, user management, content
- (4) Usability Factors: clarity, chunk size, layout
- (5) Technological Factors: bandwidth, database connectivity, server capacity, browser

## Report Locations

- 1. Quality on the Line: Benchmarks for Success in Internet-Based Distance Ed (e.g., the teaching/learning process) (Blackboard & NEA, 2000)
  - http://www.ihep.com/Pubs/PDF/Quality.pdf
- 2. The Pedagogical Rating of Online Courses Syllabus Magazine, Jan, 2002, Nishikant Sonwalkar



# Sevilla & Wells (July, 2001), e-learning Magazine

We could be very productive by ignoring assessment altogether and assume competence if the learner simply gets through the course.



# Why Evaluate?

- Cost-savings
  - Becoming less important reason to evaluate as more people recognize that the initial expense is balanced by longterm financial benefits
- Performance improvement
  - A clear place to see impact of online learning
- Competency advancement

# Readiness Checklist

- Is your organization undergoing significant change, in part related to elearning?
- \_\_\_\_ Is there pressure from administrators to measure the results of elearning?
- Has your university one or more training/learning disasters in the past?
- Is the image of the training/learning function lower than you

## What is Evaluation???

"Simply put, an evaluation is concerned with judging the worth of a program and is essentially conducted to aid in the making of decisions by stakeholders." (e.g., does it work as effectively as the standard

instructional approach).

(Champagne & Wisher, 2007)

# **Evaluation Purposes**

- · Determine learner progress
  - What did they learn?
- Document learning impact
  - How well do learners use what they learned?
  - How much do learners use what they learn?



# **Evaluation Purposes**

- Efficiency
  - Was online learning more effective than another medium?
  - Was online learning more cost-effective than another medium/what was the return on investment (ROI)?
- Improvement
  - How do we do this better?

# **Evaluation Purposes**

"An evaluation plan can evaluate the delivery of e-learning, identify ways to improve the online delivery of it, and justify the investment in the online training package, program, or initiative." (Champagne & Wisher, in press)

# Steps to Developing an OL Evaluation Program

- · Select a purpose and framework
- Develop benchmarks
- Develop online survey instruments
  - For learner reactions
  - For learner post-training performance
  - For manager post-training reactions
- Develop data analysis and management plan

# How and what do you evaluate? Who are your stakeholders?







## 15 Evaluation Methods

- 1. Formative Evaluation
- 2. Summative Evaluation
- 3. CIPP Model Evaluation
- 4. Objectives-Oriented Evaluation
- 5. Marshall & Shriver's 5 Levels of Evaluation
- 6. Consumer-Oriented Evaluation
- 7. Kirkpatrick's 4 Levels
- 8. Return on Investment (ROI)
- 9. K-Level 6 budget and stability of e-learning team.
- 10. K-Level 7 whether elearning champion(s) are promoted
- 11. Cost/Benefit Analysis (CBA)
- 12. Time to Competency
- 13. Time to Market
- 14. Return on Expectation
- 15. AEIOU: Accountability, Effectiveness, Impact, Organizational Context, U = Unintended Consequences

# **Formative Evaluation**

- Formative evaluations focus on improving the online learning experience.
- A formative focus will try to find out what worked or did not work.
- Formative evaluation is particularly useful for examining instructional design and instructor performance.

# **Formative Questions**

- -How can we improve our e-learning program?
- -How can we make our e-learning program more efficient?
- -More effective?
- · -More accessible?



## **Summative Evaluation**

- Summative evaluations focus on the overall success of the elearning experience (should it be continued?).
- A summative focus will look at whether or not objectives are met, the course or program is cost-effective, etc.



# What Can E-Learning Evaluation Measure?

- Categories of Evaluation Info (Woodley and Kirkwood, 1986)
  - · Measures of activity
  - Measures of efficiency
  - Measures of outcomes
  - Measures of program aims
  - · Measures of policy
  - Measures of organizations

# Typical Evaluation Frameworks for OL

- Commonly used frameworks include:
  - CIPP Model
  - Objectives-oriented
  - Marshall & Shriver's 5 levels
  - Kirkpatrick's 4 levels (Plus a 5th level)
  - AEIOU
  - Consumer-oriented

# **CIPP Model Evaluation**

- CIPP is a management-oriented model
  - C = context
  - -I = input
  - P = process
  - P = product
- Examines the OL within its larger system/context

## **CIPP & OL: Context**

- Context: Addresses the environment in which OL takes place.
- How does the real environment compare to the ideal?
- Uncovers systemic problems that may dampen OL success.
  - Technology breakdowns
  - Inadequate computer systems

# **CIPP & OL: Input**

- Input: Examines what resources are put into QL.
- Is the content right?
- Have we used the right combination of media?
- · Uncovers instructional design issues.

## **CIPP & OL: Process**

- Process: Examines how well the implementation works.
- Did the course run smoothly?
- Were there technology problems?
- Was the facilitation and participation as planned?
- · Uncovers implementation issues.

#### **CIPP & OL: Product**

- Product: Addresses outcomes of the learning.
- Did the learners learn? How do you know?
- Does the online training have an effect on workflow or productivity?
- Uncovers systemic problems.

#### **Objectives-Oriented Evaluation**

- Examines OL training objectives as compared to training results
- Helps determine if objectives are being met
- Helps determine if objectives, as formally stated, are appropriate
- Objectives can be used as a comparative benchmark between online and other training methods

#### Marshall & Shriver's 5 Levels

- Level I: Self (instructor)
- Level II: Course Materials
- Level II: Course Curriculum
- Level IV: Course Modules
- Level V: Learning Transfer

#### **Consumer-Oriented Evaluation**

- · Uses a consumer point-of-view
  - Can be a part of vendor selection process
  - Can be a learner-satisfaction issue
  - Measures assess consumer concerns with respect to various factors (e.g., in a hospitat, what attitudes, processes, and services need to be in place?)
  - Conduct usability testing
- Often relies on benchmarks for comparison of different products or different learning media

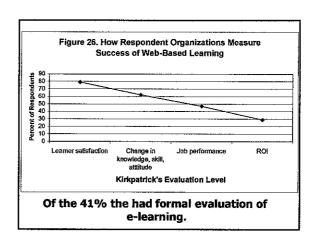
# Kirkpatrick's 4 Levels

- · A common training framework.
- Examines training on 4 levels.
- Not all 4 levels have to be included in a given evaluation.

# The 4 Levels

- Reaction
- Learning
- Behavior
- Results





# Return on Investment (ROI): A 5th Level

- · Return on Investment is a 5th level
- It is related to results, but is more clearly stated as a financial calculation
- How to calculate ROI is the big issue here

# Is ROI the answer?

- Elise Olding of CLK Strategies suggests that we shift from looking at ROI to looking at time to competency.
- ROI may be easier to calculate since concrete dollars are involved, but time to competency may be more meaningful in terms of actual impact.



# ROI Alternative: Cost/Benefit Analysis (CBA)

- ROI may be ill-advised since not all impacts hit bottom line, and those that do take time.
- Shifts the attention from more long-term results and quantifying impacts with numeric values, such as:
  - increased revenue streams,
  - increased employee retention, or
  - reduction in calls to a support center.
    - Reddy, A. (2002, January). E-learning ROI calculations: Is a cost/benefit analysis a better approach? e-learning. 3(1), 30-32.

## Cost/Benefit Analysis (CBA)

- To both qualitative and quantitative measures:
  - job satisfaction ratings,
  - new uses of technology,
  - reduction in processing errors,
  - quicker reactions to customer requests
  - reduction in customer call rerouting,
  - increased customer satisfaction.
  - enhanced employee perceptions of training,
  - global post-test availability.
    - Reddy, A. (2002, January). E-learning ROI calculations: Is a cost/benefit analysis a better approach? elearning. 3(1), 30-32.

# Cost/Benefit Analysis (CBA)

- In effect, CBA asks how does the sum of the benefits compare to the sum of the costs.
- Yet, it often leads to or supports ROI and other more quantitativelyoriented calculations.
  - Reddy, A. (2002, January). E-learning ROI calculations: Is a cost/benefit analysis a better approach? e-learning. 3(1), 30-32.



## Other ROI Alternatives

#### Time to competency (need benchmarks)

 online databases of frequently asked questions can help employees in call centers learn skills more quickly and without requiring temporary leaves from their position for such training

#### Time to market

 might be measured by how e-learning speeds up the training of sales and technical support personnel, thereby expediting the delivery of a software product to the market

Raths, D. (2001, May). Measure of success. Online Learning, 5(5), 20-22, & 24.

# Why Use Kirkpatrick's 4 Levels?

- · They are familiar and understood
- Highly referenced in the training literature
- Can be used with 2 delivery media for comparative results

## **Conducting 4-Level Evaluation**

- You need not use every level
  - Choose the level that is most appropriate to your need and budget
- Higher levels will be more costly and difficult to evaluate
- · Higher levels will yield more



#### **Kirkpatrick Level 1: Reaction**

- Typically involves "Smile sheets" or end-of-training evaluation forms.
- Easy to collect, but not always very useful.
- Reaction-level data on online courses has been found to correlate with ability to apply learning to the job.
- Survey ideally should be Web-based, keeping the medium the same as the course.

## **Kirkpatrick Level I: Reaction**

- Types of questions:
  - Enjoyable?
  - Easy to use?
  - How was the instructor?
  - How was the technology?
  - Was it fast or slow enough?



# Kirkpatrick Level 2: Learning

- Higher-order thinking skills (problem solving, analysis, synthesis)
- · Basic skills (articulate ideas in writing)
- Company perspectives and values (teamwork, commitment to quality, etc.)
- · Personal development

#### Kirkpatrick Level 2: Learning

- Might include:
  - Essay tests.
  - Problem solving exercises.
  - Interviews.
  - Written or verbal tests to assess cognitive skills.

Shepard, C. (1999b, July). Evaluating online learning. TACTIX from Fastrak Consulting. Retrieved February 10, 2002, from: http://fastrak-consulting.co.uk/tactix/Features/evaluate/eval01.htm.

## **Kirkpatrick Level 3: Behavior**

- More difficult to evaluate than Levels 1 & 2
- Looks at whether learners can apply what they learned (does the training change their behavior?)
- Requires post-training follow-up to determine
- · Less common than levels 1 & 2 in practice

#### Kirkpatrick Level 3: Behavior

- · Might include:
  - Direct observation by supervisors or coaches (Wisher, Curnow, & Drenth, 2001).
  - Questionnaires completed by peers, supervisors, and subordinates related to work performance.
  - On the job behaviors, automatically logged performances, or self-report data.

Shepard, C. (1999b, July). Evaluating online learning. TACTIX from Fastrak Consulting. Retrieved February 10, 2002, from: http://fastrakconsulting.co.uk/tactix/Features/evaluate/eval01.htm.

## **Kirkpatrick Level 4: Results**

- Often compared to return on investment (ROI)
- In e-learning, it is believed that the increased cost of course development ultimately is offset by the lesser cost of training implementation
- A new way of training may require a new way of measuring impact

## Forms of Evaluation

- · Interviews and Focus Groups
- Self-Analysis
- Instructor Ratings
- · Surveys and Questionnaires
- ROT
- Document Analysis
- Data Mining (Changes in pre and posttraining; e.g., sales, productivity)

#### **How Collect Data?**

- · Direct Observation in Work Setting
  - By supervisor, co-workers, subordinates, clients
- Collect Data By Surveys, Interviews, Focus Groups
  - Supervisors, Co-workers, Subordinates, Clients
- · Self-Report by learners or teams
- Email and Chat



#### **Learner Data**

- Online surveys are the most effective way to collect online learner reactions
- Learner performance data can be collected via online tests
  - Pre and post-tests can be used to measure learning gains
- Learner post-course performance data can be used for Level 3 evaluation
  - May look at on-the-job performance
  - May require data collection from managers

# **Learning System Data**

- Many statistics are available, but which are useful?
  - Number of course accesses
  - Log-in times/days
  - Time spent accessing course components
  - Frequency of access for particular components
  - Quizzes completed and quiz scores
  - Learner contributions to discussion (if applicable)

# At the End of the Day...

- · Are all training results quantifiable?
- NO! Putting a price tag on some costs and benefits can be very difficult
- NO! Some data may not have much meaning at face value
  - What if more courses are offered and annual student training hours drop simultaneously? Is this bad?

# Ziegler, April 2002, e-Learning

"...the key is not to measure every possible angle, but rather to focus on metrics that are pragmatic and relevant to both human and business performance at the same time."

