Culture of Learning Initiative in the SKHS

Anna Walczak & Jacob Bonafiglio
Introduction
~2013 SKHS forms C.o.L. committee
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Focus on marks rather than learning
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2014-16  Assessment of C.o.L. in SKHS

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2017
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2017

Focus on marks rather than learning

2018
Start Initiative
Initiative Overview

Initiative to improve C.o.L.
Initiative Overview

Initiative to improve C.o.L.

- Student-focused initiative
- Instructor-focused initiative
Initiative Overview

Initiative to improve C.o.L.

Student-focused initiative

Instructor-focused initiative
Literature Review

- Effective study methods
- Ineffective study methods to avoid
- Effects of multi-tasking on your laptop
- Effects of texting in class
- Effects of taking notes verbatim
- Completing textbook readings pre-lecture
Multi-tasking on your laptop during class **impairs** learning for both: **YOU** and **THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU**.


**Study Design**

### Experiment #1

- **Participants:** 44 undergraduate students divided into 2 groups: control group or multi-tasking group.
- **Procedure:**
  - Students are asked to take notes like "normal".
  - Students are asked to hand in notes + results from online tasks.
- **Timeline:**
  - Arrive to session
  - PowerPoint Lecture
  - Comprehension Test

### Experiment #2

- **Participants:** 74 undergraduate students divided into 2 groups: participants (38) or confederates (36).
- **Procedure:**
  - Participants are asked to take notes like "normal".
  - Confederates are asked to pretend to take notes and browse the Internet occasionally throughout the lecture.
- **Timeline:**
  - Arrive to session
  - PowerPoint Lecture
  - Comprehension Test

**Key Results**

- Students who multitasked on their laptops performed significantly worse on the comprehension test (11% difference).
- Students (n=19) who were in view of others multitasking on their laptops performed significantly worse on the post-lecture comprehension test (17% difference).
Awareness Campaign

STUDY METHODS

OUTSIDE OF CLASS BEHAVIOURS

IN CLASS BEHAVIOURS

How to Study Effectively!

To improve learning and knowledge retention, you should:
- Avoid cramming by studying over several sessions.
- Quiz yourself/peers on course material.

84% of students make this mistake...

- Just highlighting or rereading notes
- Isn't enough when studying.

Complete textbook readings as part of a pre-lecture routine.

Better understanding of material.
Better academic performance.

Better in lecture, avoid taking notes verbatim on your laptop.

Re-word notes with a pen and paper for:

Improved academic performance and knowledge retention.

Texting during lecture interrupts learning by negatively affecting:

Memory and focus.

Multi-tasking on your laptop during class impairs learning for both:

You and the people around you.
Instructor-focused initiative

Do our courses promote and reward behaviours that focus on learning?

To help create a positive learning environment, can we implement teaching ‘best-practices’?

2017: Brief Lit. Review on Evidence-Based Teaching Strategies/Techniques
Instructor-focused initiative

PSYC 400

Sept 2018

Dec 2018

April 2019
Instructor-focused initiative

PSYC 400

Presentations at academic council

2018 Sept

2018 Dec

2019 Apr
Peer Instruction

1. Instructor asks conceptual/application/extension question

2. Students respond individually

3. Instructor reviews responses (does not show class)

Did majority of class respond correctly? 

4. PEER INSTRUCTION

5. Students respond again (answer editing)

6. Instructor reviews responses

7. Instructor explains correct answer

YES 

Continue with lecture
Instructor-focused initiative

PSYC 400

Presentations at academic council

Optional meetings with instructors

Spring Meeting Presentation
Conclusion

Our goal:

Encourage students to engage in effective learning practices

and

Create an a learning environment that promotes effective learning practices
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SKHS Culture of Learning Committee

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