



U N I V E R S I T Y O F
SOUTH CAROLINA[®]
A I K E N

Getting Students to Read: The Effectiveness of Online Quizzes

USCA Academic Technology Conference

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University of South Carolina Aiken

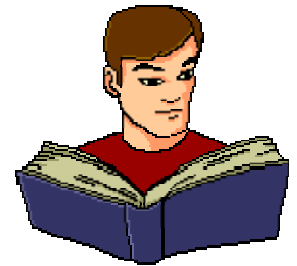
email: bradenh@usca.edu

April 15, 2005

Overview

Following this session you will:

- Understand how using online quizzes can motivate students to read.
- Know how to construct a simple online quiz using Blackboard
- Understand limitations and pitfalls of using online quizzes



Reasons to Use Online Quizzes

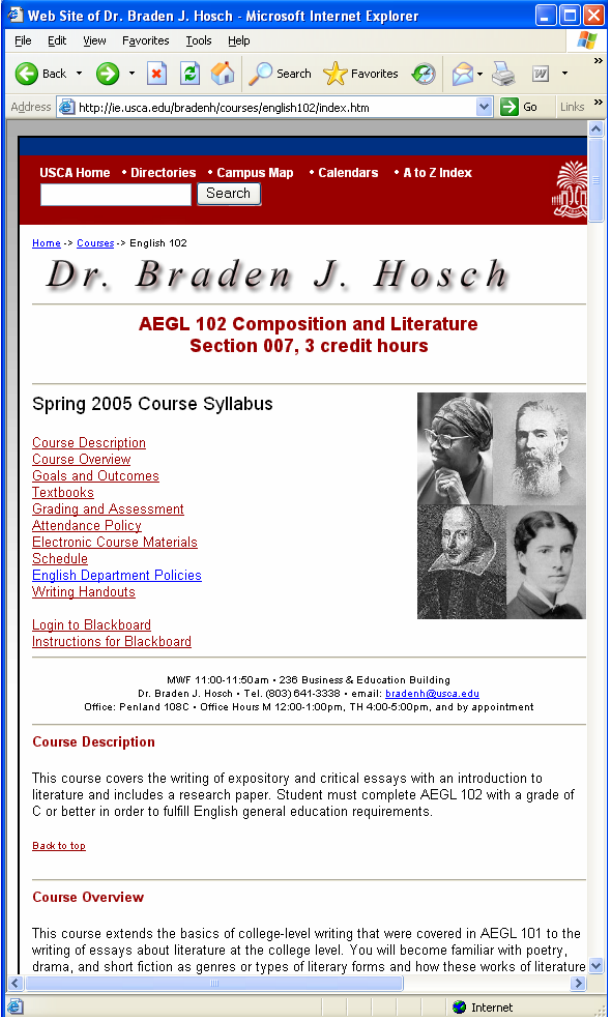
1. Motivate students to complete assignments
2. Prompt students to spend more time on academic work
3. Monitor level of assignment completion
4. Provide immediate feedback
5. Recapture valuable class time
6. Let the computer do the grading



Application: AEGL102, Sp 2005

Composition & Literature:

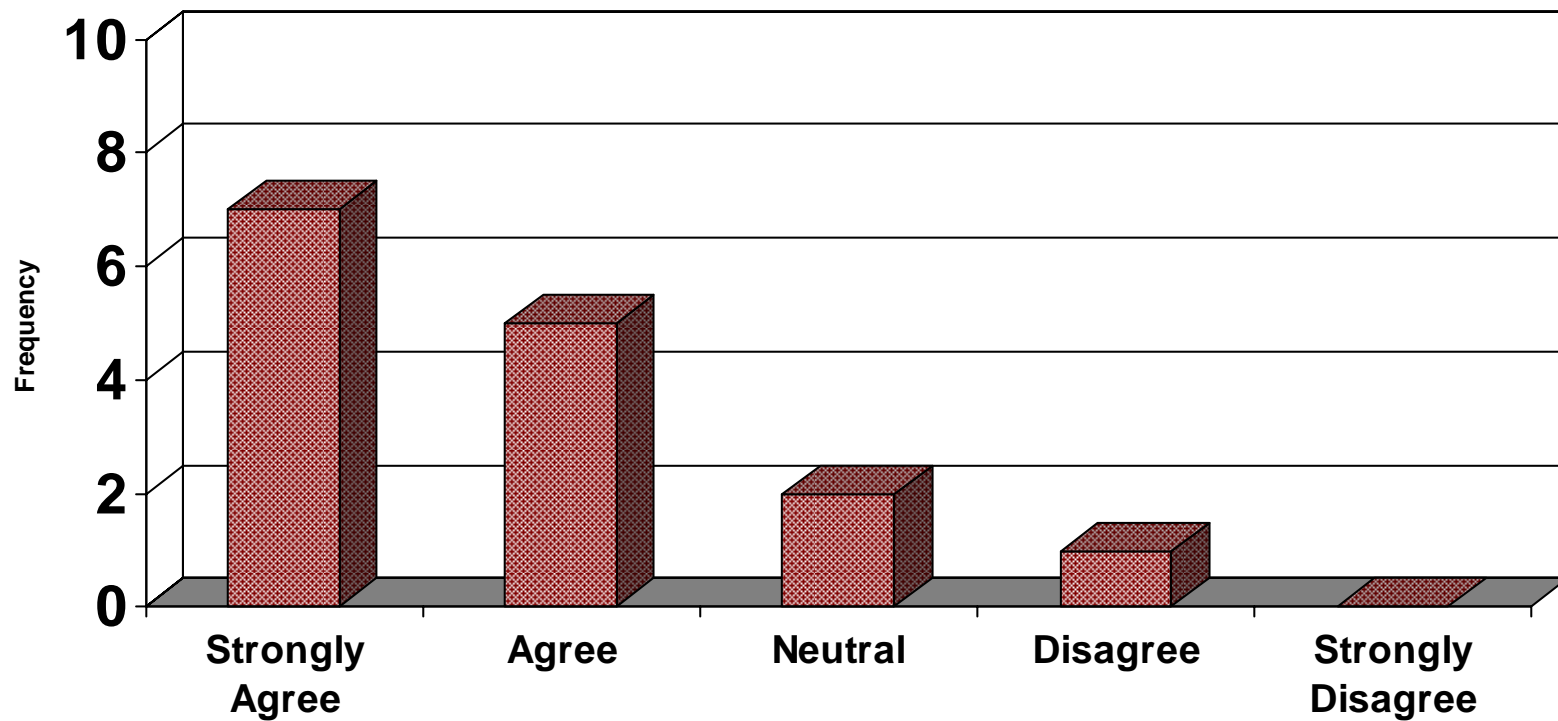
- MWF Class, 11am
- Enrollment = 15
- Reading assignment for almost every class
- Quiz for each assignment
- Quizzes administered via Blackboard



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website of Dr. Braden J. Hosch. The address bar shows the URL: <http://le.usca.edu/bradenh/courses/english102/index.htm>. The page features a red navigation bar with links for USCA Home, Directories, Campus Map, Calendars, and A to Z Index. Below the navigation bar, the page is titled "Dr. Braden J. Hosch" and "AEGL 102 Composition and Literature Section 007, 3 credit hours". The main content area is titled "Spring 2005 Course Syllabus" and includes a list of links: [Course Description](#), [Course Overview](#), [Goals and Outcomes](#), [Textbooks](#), [Grading and Assessment](#), [Attendance Policy](#), [Electronic Course Materials](#), [Schedule](#), [English Department Policies](#), and [Writing Handouts](#). There are also links for [Login to Blackboard](#) and [Instructions for Blackboard](#). A small image of four historical figures is displayed on the right side of the syllabus section. At the bottom of the page, contact information for Dr. Braden J. Hosch is provided: MWF 11:00-11:50am, 236 Business & Education Building, Dr. Braden J. Hosch • Tel. (803) 641-3338 • email: bradenh@usca.edu, Office: Penland 108C • Office Hours M 12:00-1:00pm, TH 4:00-5:00pm, and by appointment. The "Course Description" section states: "This course covers the writing of expository and critical essays with an introduction to literature and includes a research paper. Student must complete AEGL 102 with a grade of C or better in order to fulfill English general education requirements." The "Course Overview" section states: "This course extends the basics of college-level writing that were covered in AEGL 101 to the writing of essays about literature at the college level. You will become familiar with poetry, drama, and short fiction as genres or types of literary forms and how these works of literature

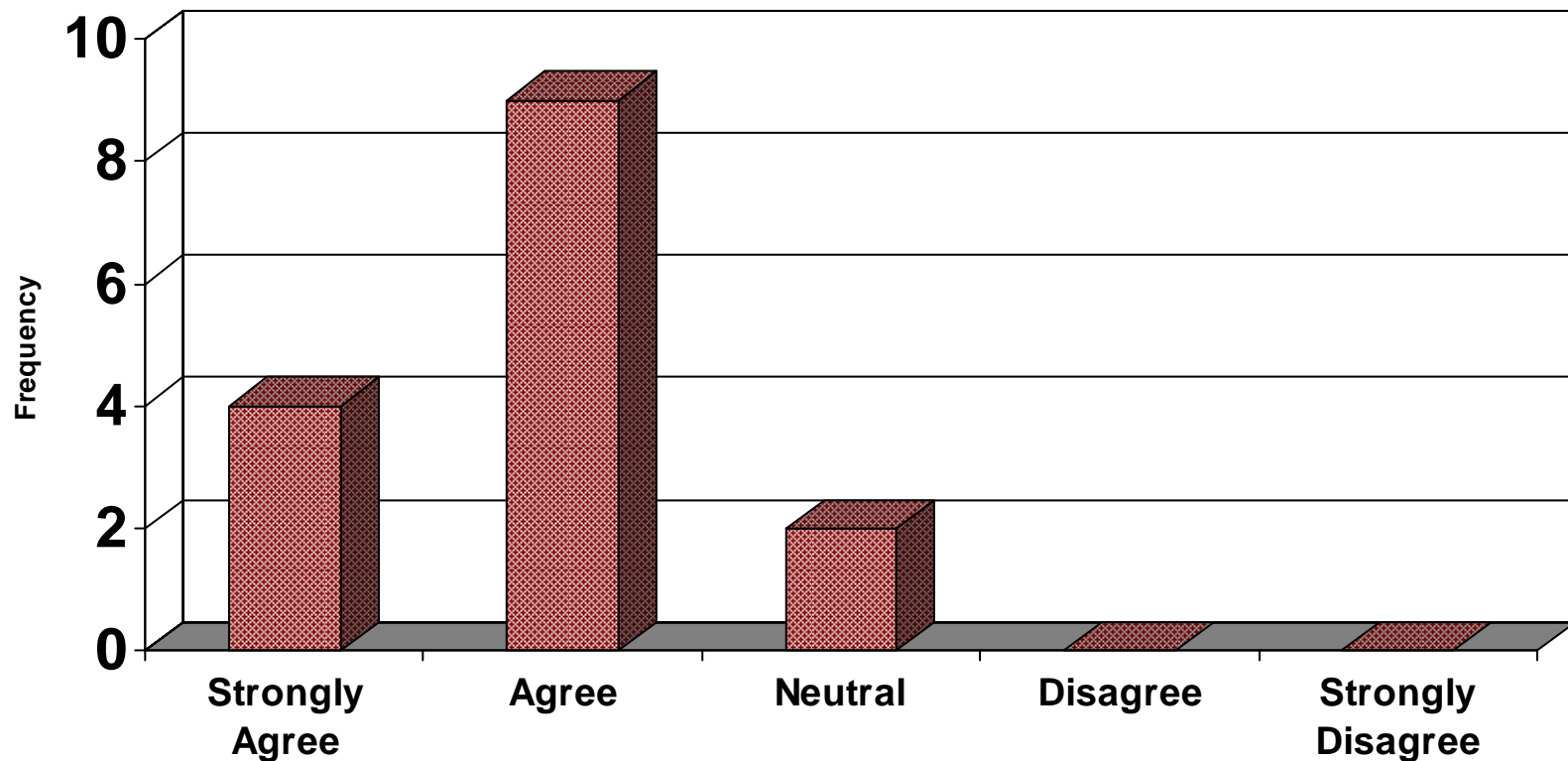
Student Feedback

Online quizzes motivated me to complete reading assignments for this course



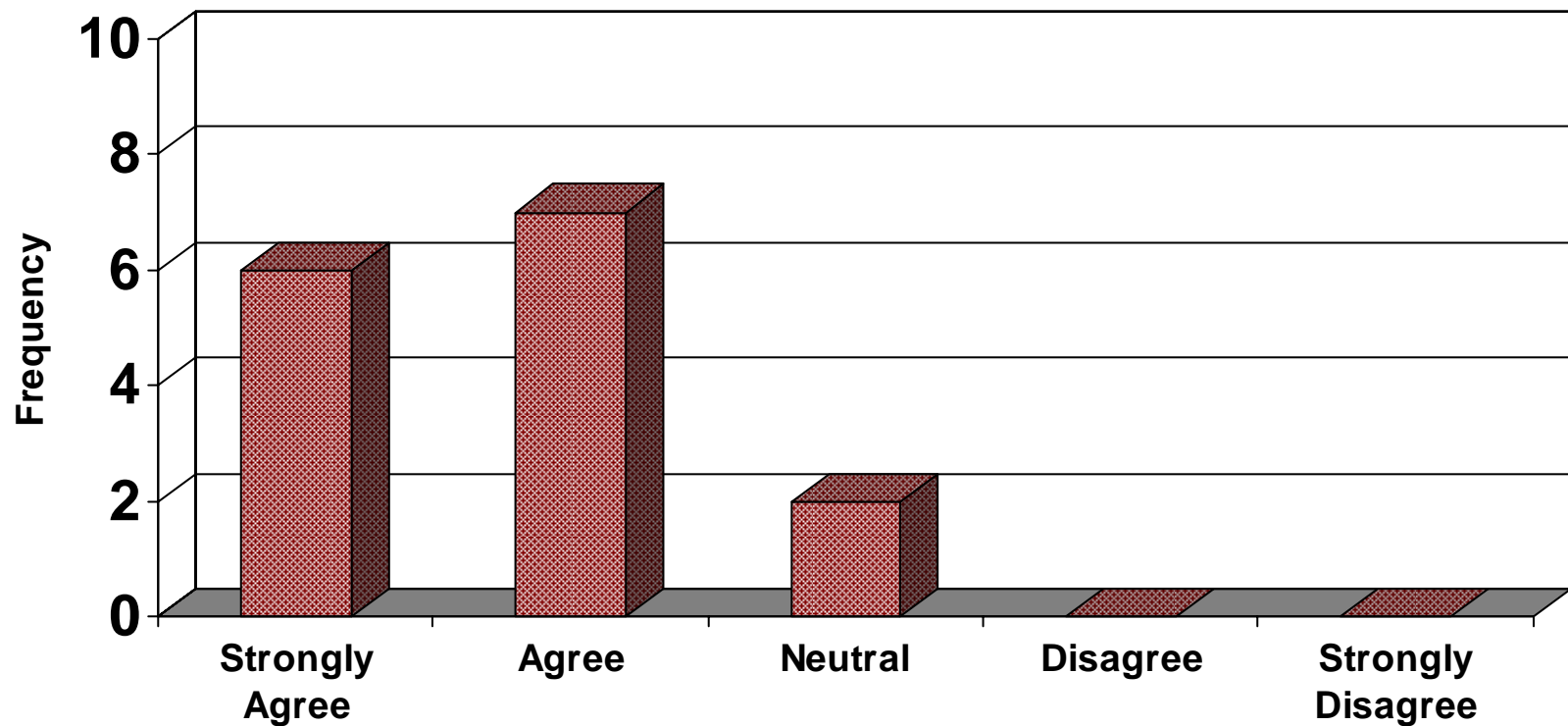
Student Feedback

In general, I was more likely to complete reading assignments for English 102 than reading assignments for other courses this semester



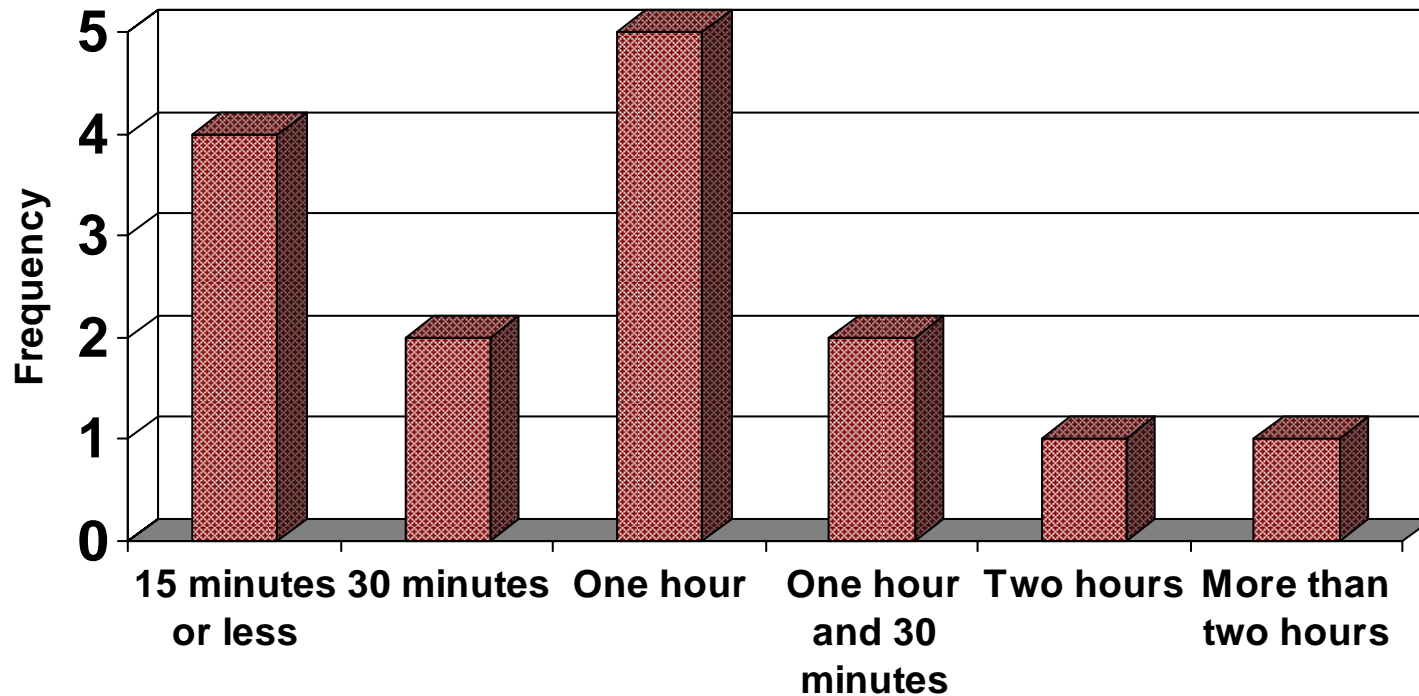
Student Feedback

I would recommend that more courses at this university use online quizzes



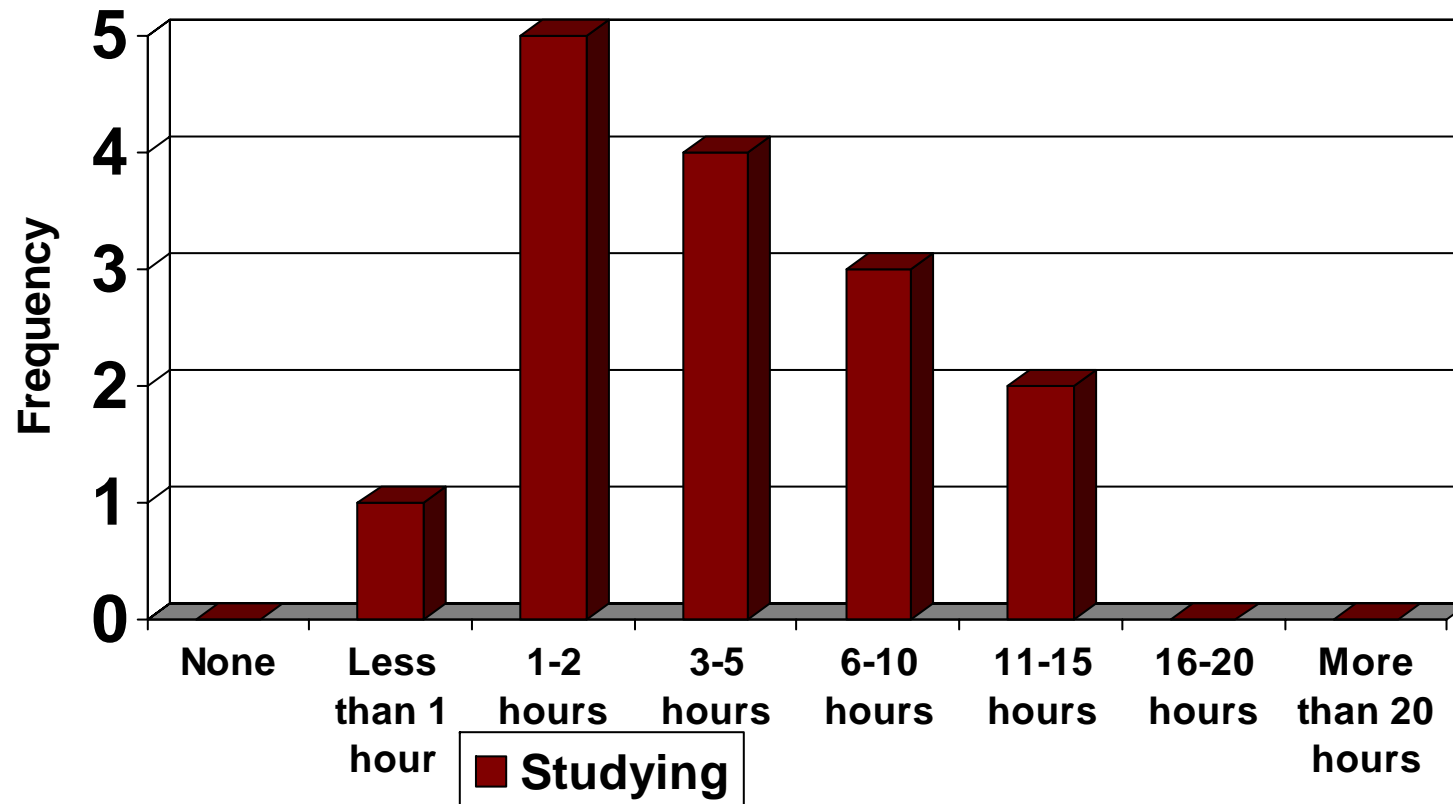
Student Time Usage

How much time did you spend completing a typical reading assignment for this course?



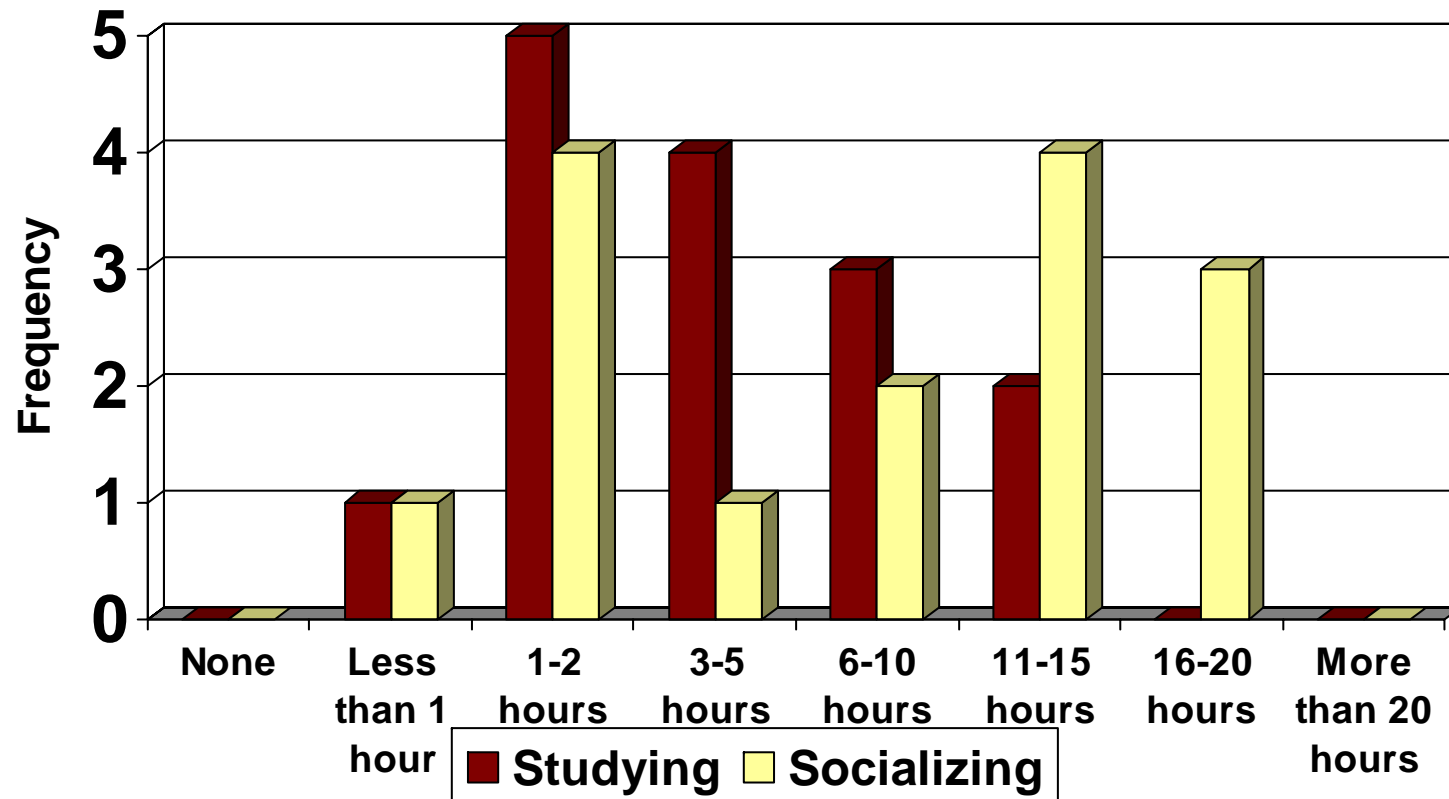
Student Time Usage

Taking all of your activities and coursework into account, in a typical week, how many hours did you spend this semester doing the following activities:



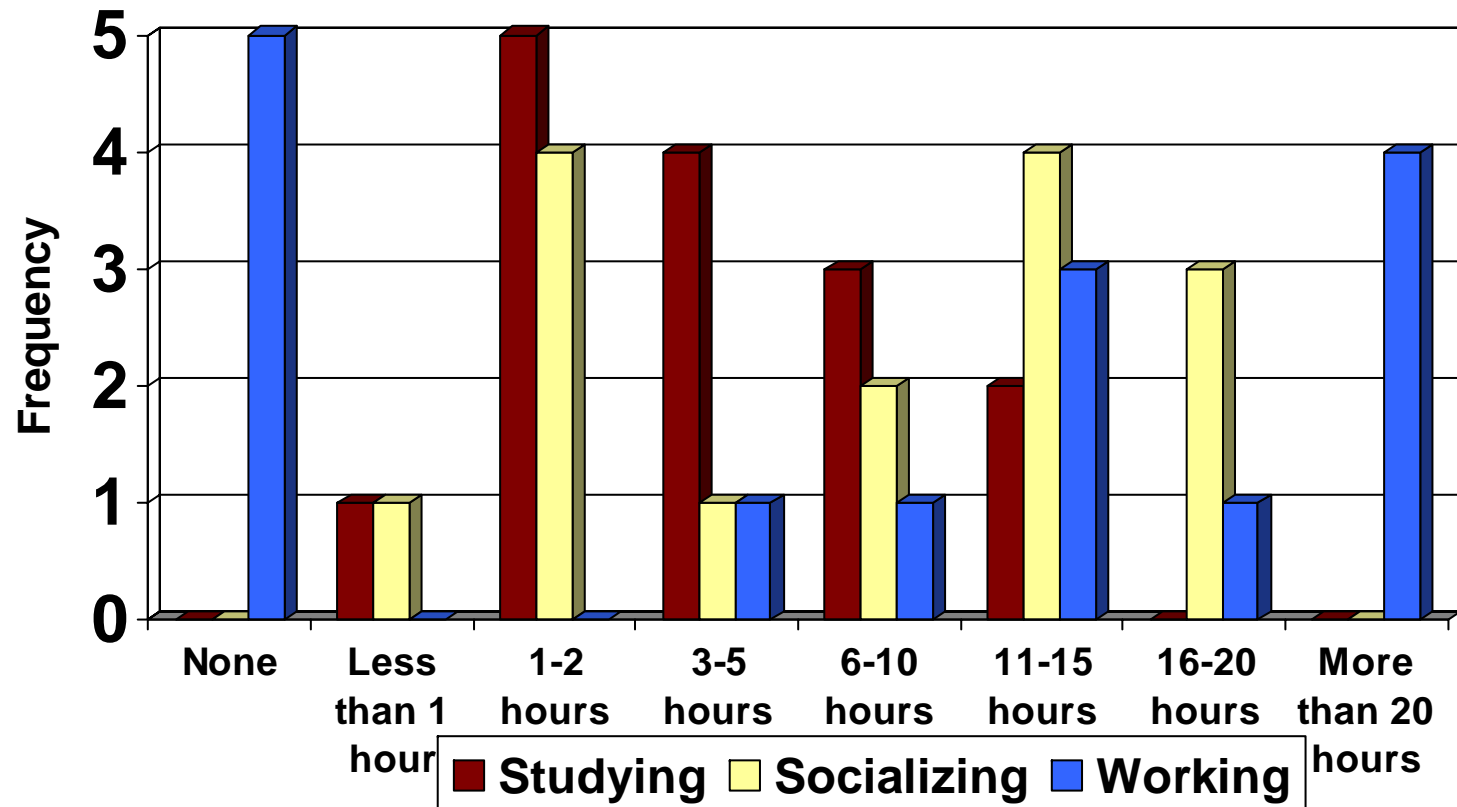
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Taking all of your activities and coursework into account, in a typical week, how many hours did you spend this semester doing the following activities:



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Taking all of your activities and coursework into account, in a typical week, how many hours did you spend this semester doing the following activities:



Creating a Quiz in Blackboard

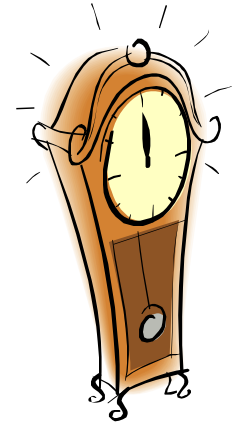


Login to Blackboard

<https://blackboard.sc.edu/webapps/login>

Lessons Learned

- Developing quizzes takes time: don't plan a quiz for every reading assignment the first time you use this tool.
- Write quizzes in MS Word, then cut & paste information.
- At least initially, students don't write enough material on free response questions. Grading takes additional time.
- Monitor and assess the extent to which online quizzes are accomplishing your goals.





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