Getting Students to Read:
The Effectiveness of Online Quizzes

USCA Academic Technology Conference

Dr. Braden J. Hosch
Director of Institutional Effectiveness,
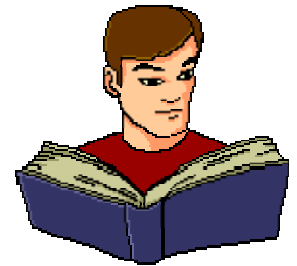University of South Carolina Aiken
email: bradenh@usca.edu

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
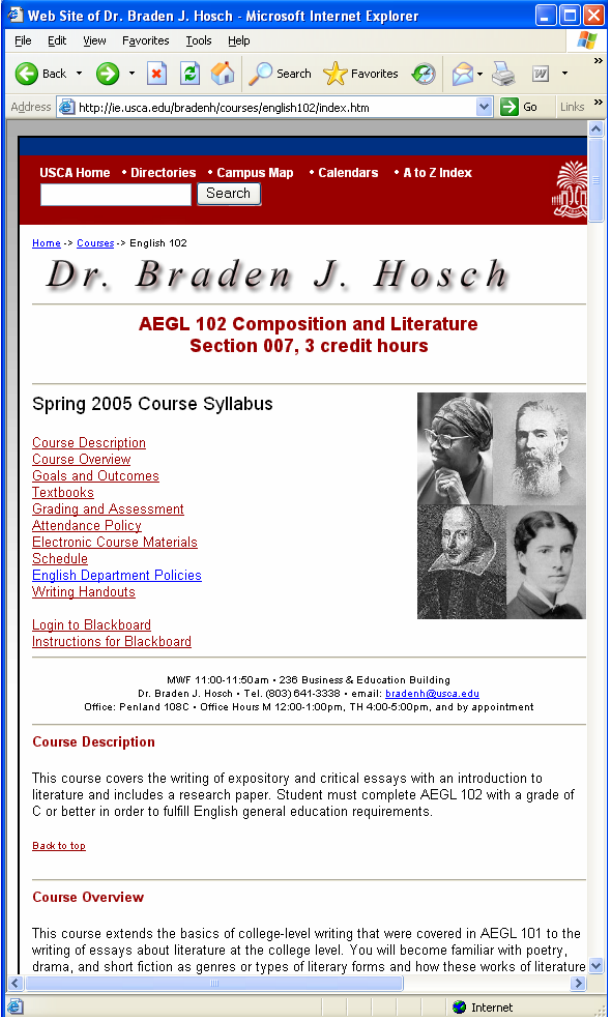
Reasons to Use Online Quizzes

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
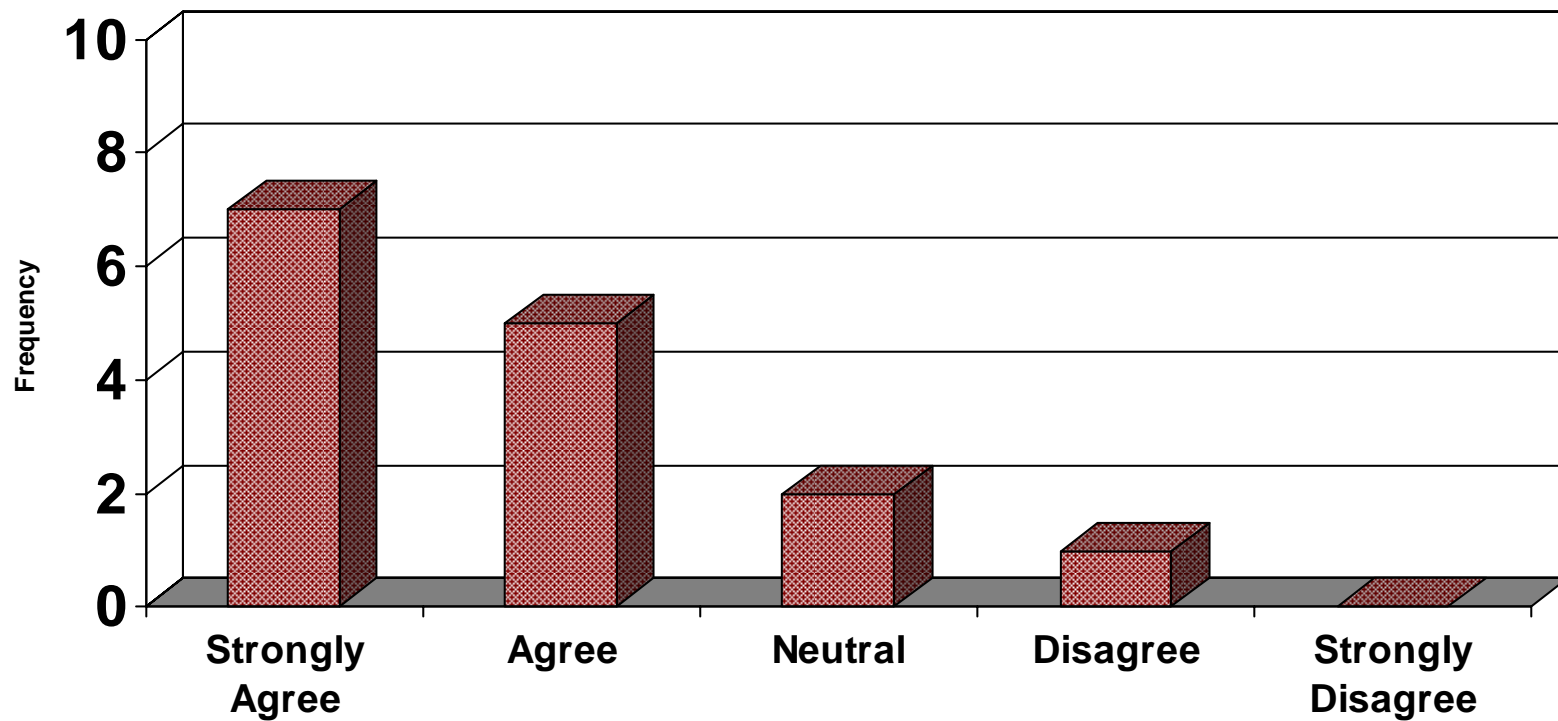
Composition & Literature:

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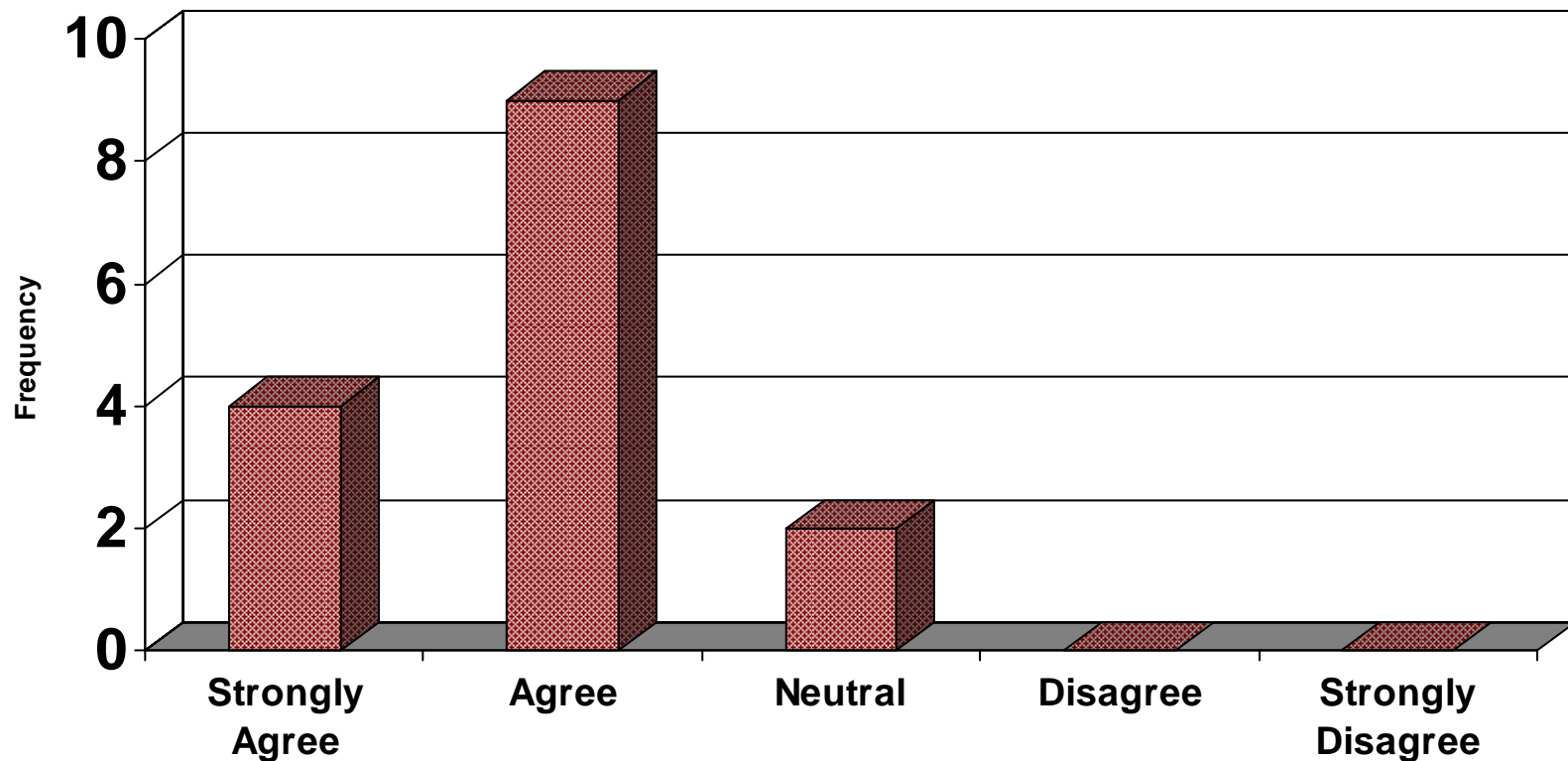- Quizzes administered via Blackboard

Student Feedback

Online quizzes motivated me to complete reading assignments for this course
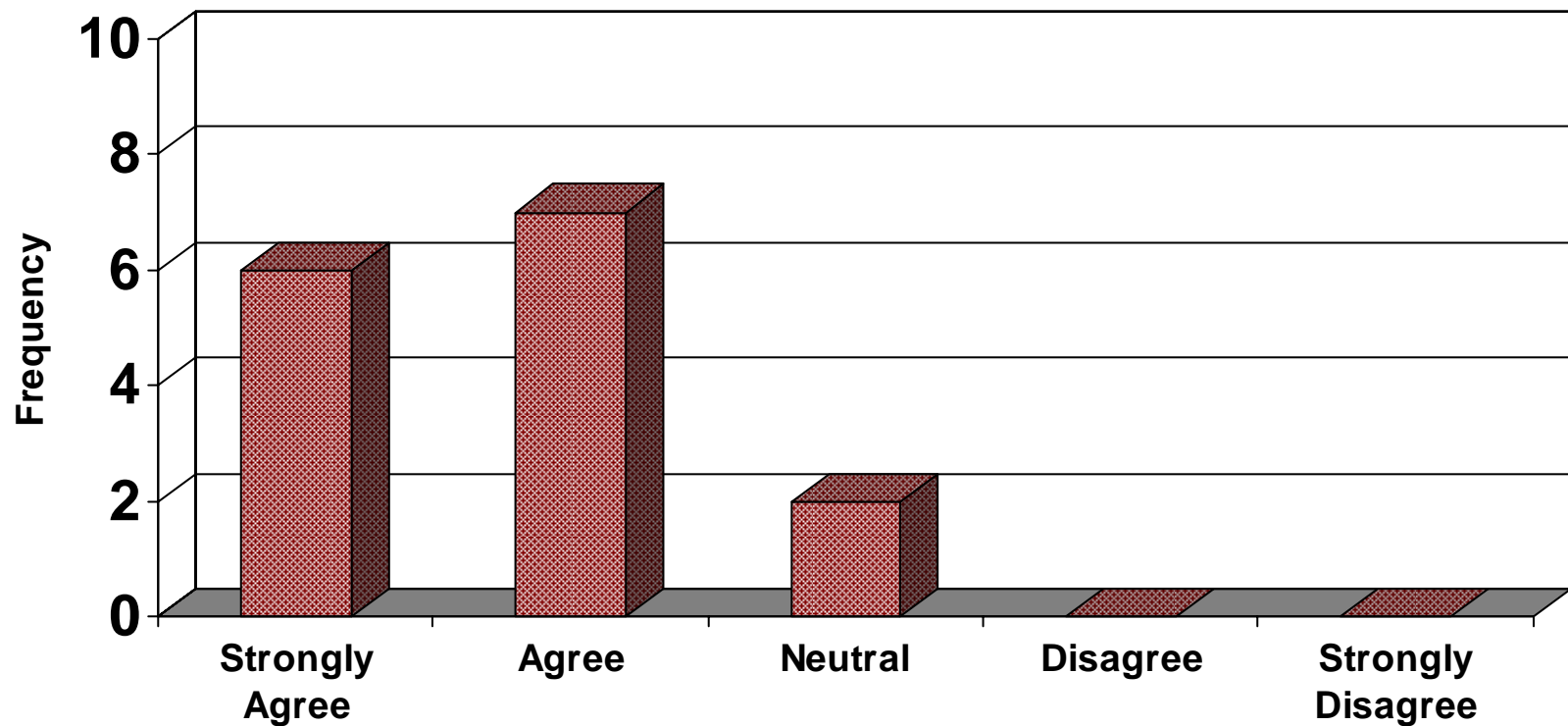
Student Feedback

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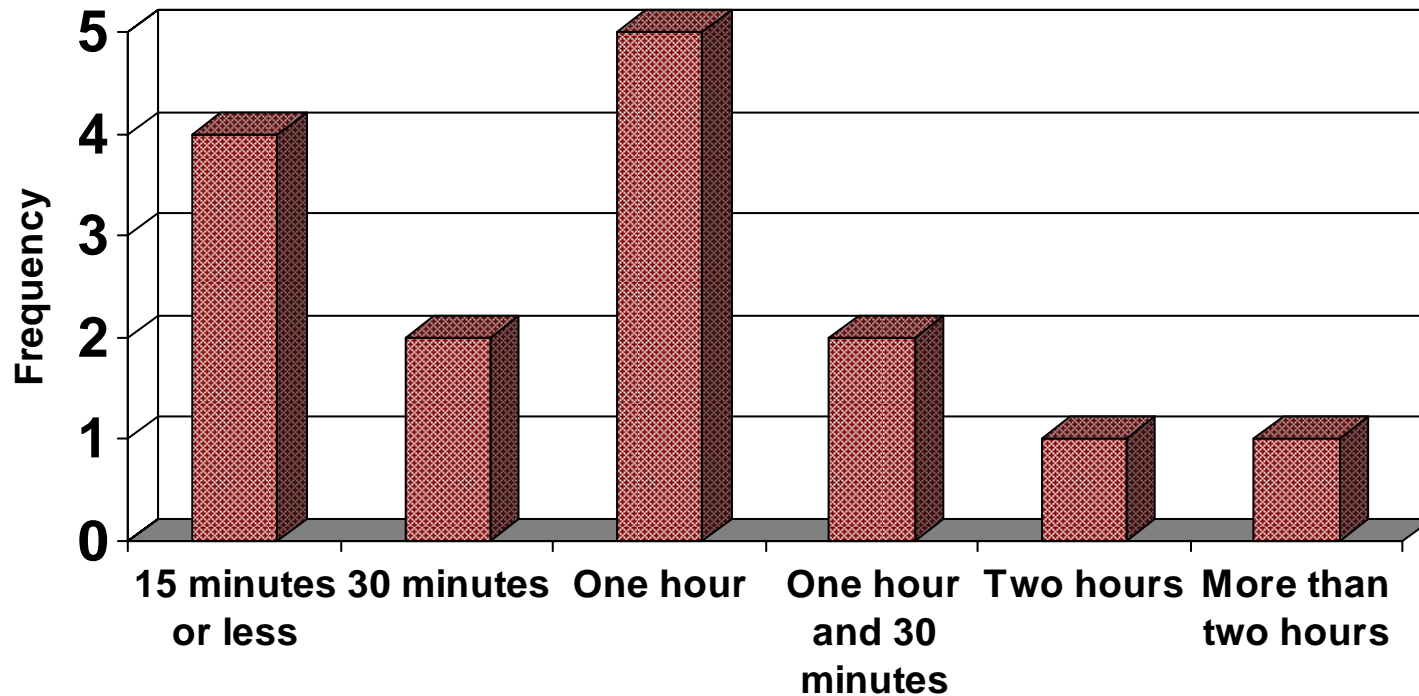
Student Feedback

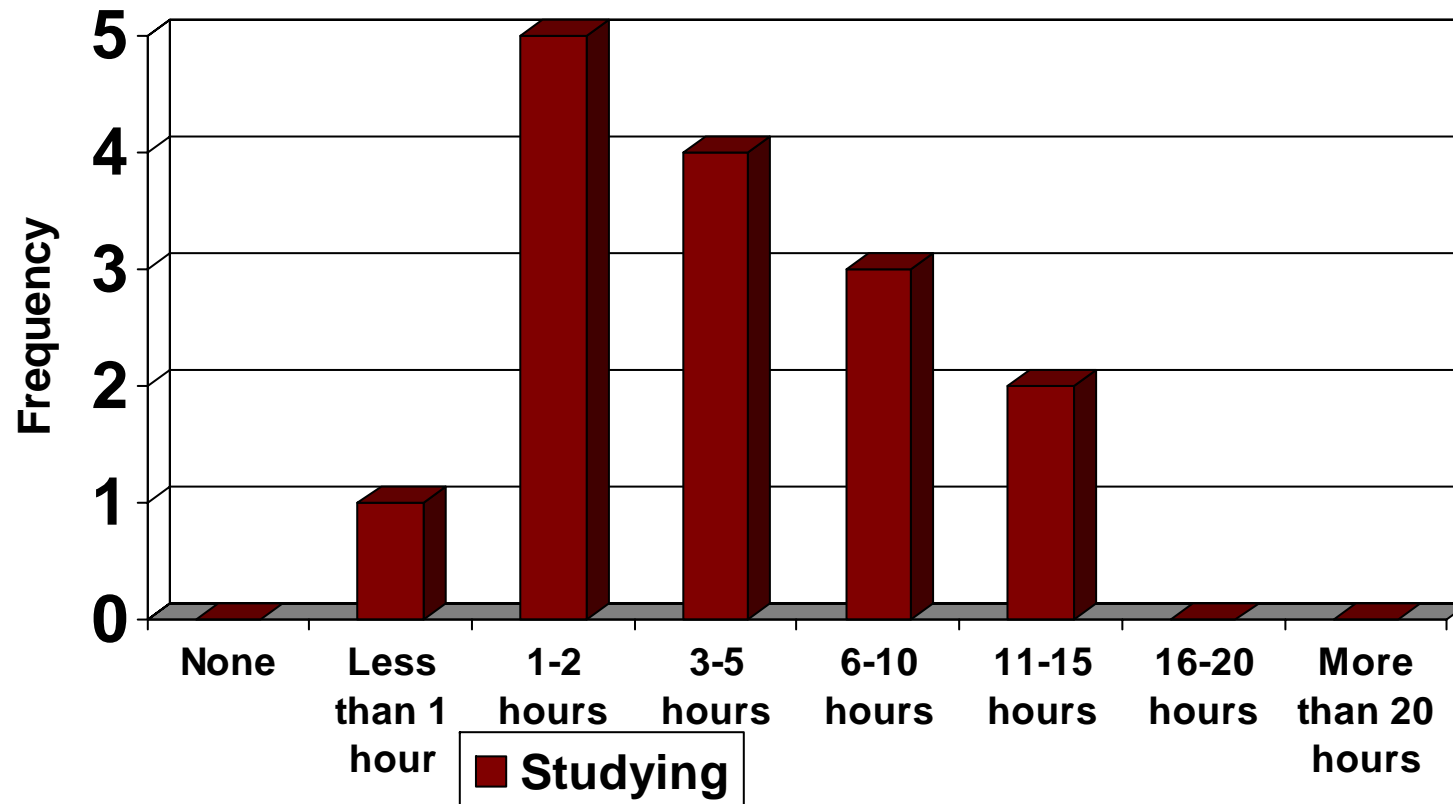**I would recommend that more courses at this university use online quizzes**

Student Time Usage

How much time did you spend completing a typical reading assignement 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:
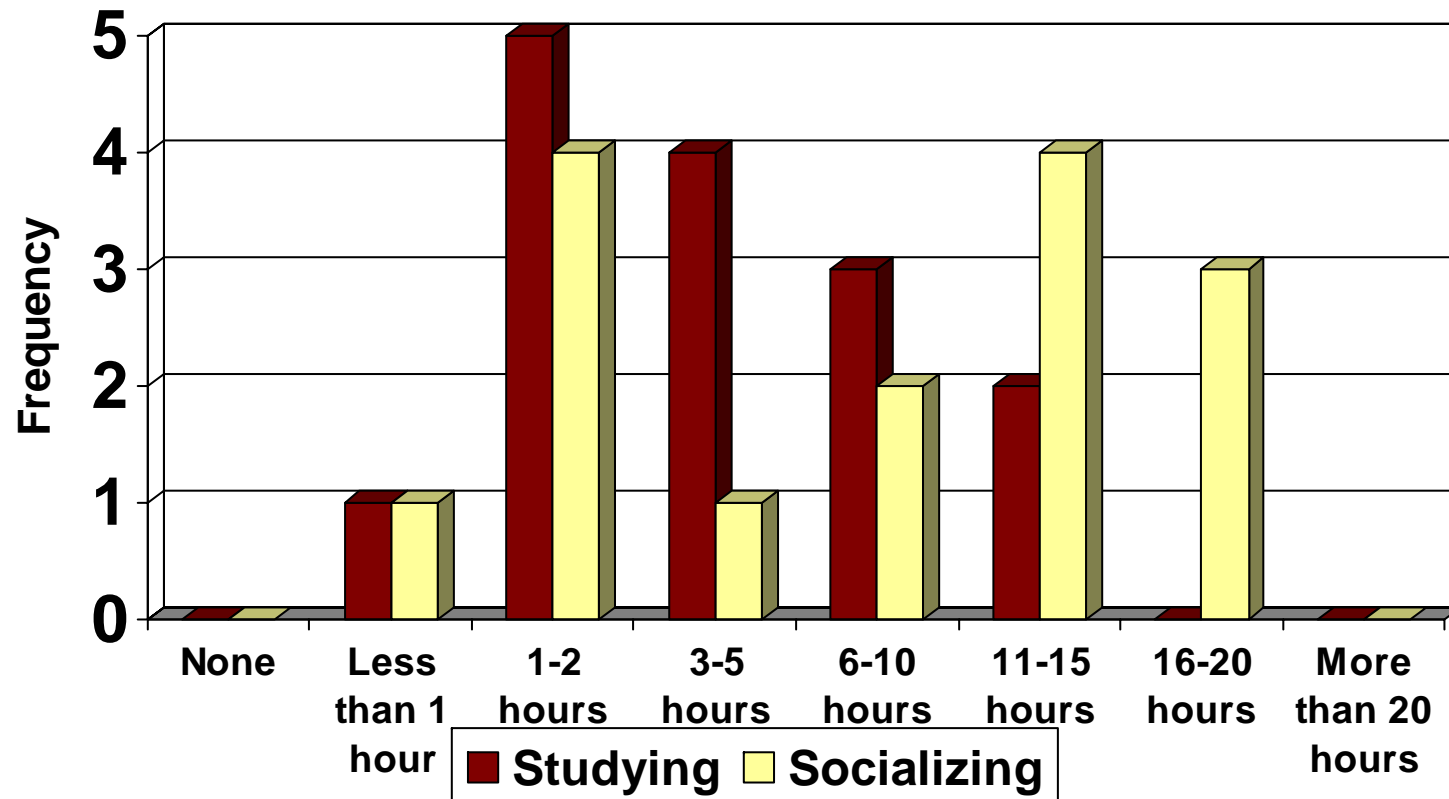
Student Time Usage

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:

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:
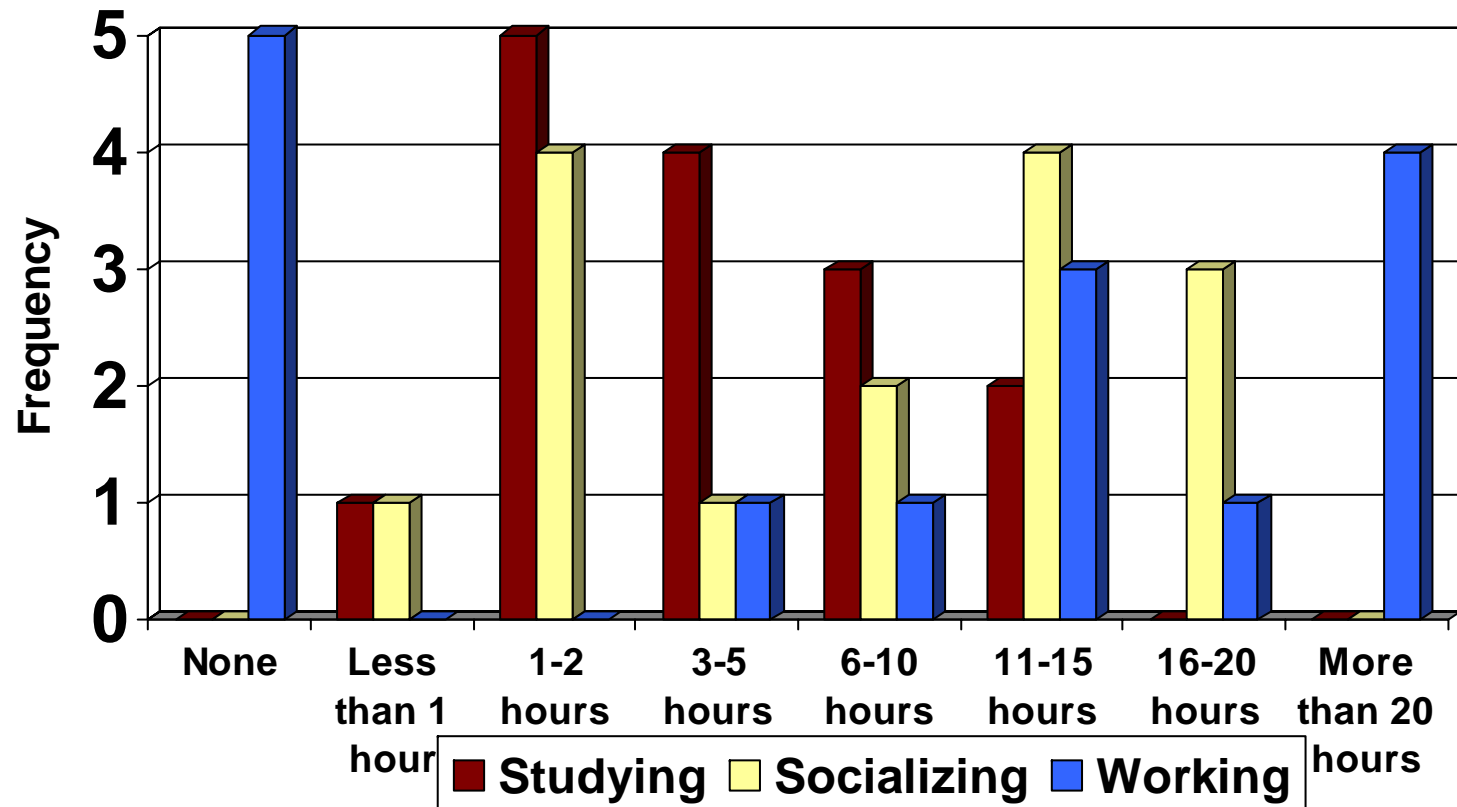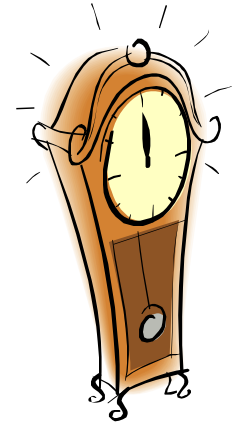
Creating a Quiz in Blackboard

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.

Getting Students to Read:
The Effectiveness of Online Quizzes

USCA Academic Technology Conference

Dr. Braden J. Hosch

April 15, 2005