Leveraging Canvas Participation Data to Inform Course Design

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The Definition of Participation

The following actions are considered as participation:

• Posting a discussion comment
• Replying to a discussion thread
• Submitting an assignment
Questions

• How much do students use discussions as an extension of F2F classroom participation
• How do discussion features affect student participation?
• Does a graded discussion facilitate a higher participation rate?
More Questions

• How much do students use Canvas to submit assignments?
• Are student submission activities associated with due dates?
Assignment submissions

- 93 assignments were submitted on April 27, 2015 at 11:00pm
- 69 (74%) of those submissions were for assignments due at 11:00pm
- Assignments submission is strongly correlated to due date
- Instructors need to consider due date for an assignment and select it strategically
From descriptive to diagnostic
Peeling the onion...

http://imgbuddy.com/peeling-an-onion.asp
Discussion Tool Usage

• 71.6% published courses did not use discussion tool
• 28.4% of published courses used the discussion tool to various extent
Discussion Feature Usage

41.2% of discussion topics allowed threaded replies
Discussion Feature Usage

10.8% of discussion topics required initial post before seeing others’ posts
Discussion Feature Usage

15.4% of discussion topics were graded
Discussion Feature Usage

14.8% of discussion topics were pinned – the discussion topic appears at the top of the discussion page
When discussions were set to Require Initial Post (post before reading other posts) there were significant differences in student participation:

---- Contributing before reading others’ posts accounted for a higher participation rate.
Discussion Participation

When discussions were graded there were significant differences in student participation:

---- Graded discussions result in a higher participation rate
Participation rate was significantly higher when discussions were graded and students had to post before viewing other posts.
Continue peeling the onion...
Discussion Participation Rate - Number of Files

Participation rate

Number of files
Thoughts:

• Only 36% of discussion participation rate can be explained by the variables.
• What are other explanatory variables that are important and worthwhile to explore?
• How do we apply the results to practice?
Let’s keep the dialogue going

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Evaluation link:
The discussion type and assignments posted in a course

Discussion Participation Rate

Number of assignments

side_comment
threaded
Is the discussion graded and #files in the course?