CELT Teaching Tip for March 7, 2019

Seven fun ways to assess student learning

Cognitive psychologists have long stated that testing can enhance memory. CELT SoTL Scholar Jason Chan, an Associate Professor in Psychology, has found in his research with graduate students that testing one’s memory not only enhances retention of materials learned previously, it also boosts learning of materials that will appear later. Read the "Asking questions, testing improves student learning of new material" Inside Iowa State web article (http://bit.ly/2XHfBr9).

With midterm grade reports due on Friday, March 8th on Canvas or AccessPlus, you may wonder how you can help students prepare for future exams. If done well, review sessions can help students better organize course material, increase student engagement, and promote active learning and practice (Bord, 2008). Colleagues in the World Languages and Cultures Department shared great ways that they use active engagement strategies to enhance the learning environment and decrease stress associated with exam preparation:

1. Instructors can use the application Quizlet to customize flashcards and prepare practice tests. Students can also prepare their own tests, customizing them in terms of question type and length. Learn how via the MyCanvas Teacher Quizlet webpage (http://bit.ly/2XFoyBB).

2. StudyMate is integrated with Canvas and offers an easy way for instructors to create flashcards, self-assessments and learning games. Read more about StudyMate's easy to use authoring templates for learning activities from the MyCanvas Teacher StudyMate Campus webpage (http://bit.ly/2XG3pXH).

3. Students can use Sketchnoting to break down their lessons in a different way; seeing it drawn in front of them often leads to visual connections between topics that they otherwise may not have seen. Sketchnoting is an alternative to traditional note-taking, a process of adding visuals to notes in order to cement what students learned and push them to think about the material in a new way. To learn how, register register via the Learn@ISU website (http://learn.iastate.edu/) to participate in the 3-Part Series: Sketchnoting for Visual Note Taking and more (http://bit.ly/2XIK0Fw), Apr. 3, 30 & 17 (12:30-2 p.m.)


5. For a more physically-engaging review session, Four Corners presents a series of multiple-choice questions and asks students to move to the corresponding corner of the classroom (designated “A-B-C-D”) for each question. Students are asked to elaborate on their response with others in their corner before the instructor reveals the correct response.

6. Sometimes the simple addition of randomization can breathe new life into the review. Prepare a handout of 20 open-ended review questions and put students in small groups. Give each group a 20-sided die. Each student has to answer the question matching the number just rolled, while his/her group members elaborate on or correct their peer’s response.

7. Students can also work in Interview Pairs. Students take turns asking a series of instructor-prepared review questions and write down the answers their interviewee gives. Then, they verify the accuracy of their partner’s information through discussion with a new partner and/or by consulting course materials.

For students that request additional help in their exams, share these downloadable resources from the Academic Success Center’s Exam Preparation webpage (http://bit.ly/2Xlys5a):

- 5 Day Study Plan (PDF) (http://bit.ly/2ER3SyV)
- 7 Day Study Plan (PDF) (http://bit.ly/2C9CGts)

As well as, academic coaching, tutoring, and more available from the Academic Success Center website (http://bit.ly/isu-asc) or call 515-294-6624.

Sincerely,
Sara Marcketti, Director

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

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Call for: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Scholars 2019-2020
The SoTL Scholars Program is a year-long experience focused on writing research questions for classroom-based research, implementing quantitative and qualitative assessment techniques, and articulating the types of evidence that can be used to help answer SoTL research questions. SoTL is a valued form of scholarship at Iowa State University, as it involves systematically investigating questions related to student learning, with the goal of improving student learning and advancing practice beyond it through peer-reviewed presentations and publications.
Learn more from the CELT SoTL Scholars Program webpage (http://bit.ly/celt-sotl) and apply via the SoTL Scholars Program Application Qualtrics web form (http://bit.ly/2XDoW3z). Applications are due Friday, March 29th. For more information, please contact CELT Faculty Fellow, Ann Gansemer-Topf, anngt@iastate.edu

Request for Proposals: Miller Open Education Mini-Grants (due April 15)
The request for proposals for the Miller Open Education Mini-Grants are due on April 15. Learn more about these grants on the Miller Open Education Mini-Grants webpage or email Abbey Elder, Open Access Librarian for Parks Library

Learning Online: Canvas and Beyond

Ways to create engaging assessments in Canvas
Canvas allows to set up assessments for different purposes, from engagement and practice to high-stakes assessment:
• **Arc Video Quizzing** provides an innovative way to create engaging and impactful learning experiences by embedding short interactive quizzes into instructor-created or curated videos. For more information see the Arc Video Quizzing (Beta) web guide (http://bit.ly/2XKrUmy). You may request Arc Video Quizzing to be enabled by contacting the ISU Solution Center by phone 515-294-4000 or email solution@iastate.edu. Please note, that although it is possible to grade Arc quizzes, the scores will not appear in the Canvas gradebook, thus Arc Video Quizzes should only be used for engagement purposes at this time.
• **Canvas Quizzes** can be used in very creative ways, from interactive lessons (view this Designing Interactive Lessons YouTube video) (https://youtu.be/FGzku6M0MVs) to thoughtful low and high-stakes assessments on the MyCanvas Low and High-Stakes webpage (http://bit.ly/2zNkjeE).
• **ISU’s Online Testing Center** provides a proctored environment for high-stakes assessments. You can explore the best ways to utilize their services from the Online Testing Center website (https://www.testcenter.iastate.edu/).

Canvas News & Updates

Upcoming CELT programs (alpha by topic then date)
To learn more about our comprehensive array of events visit CELT’s Event and Registration website (http://www.celt.iastate.edu/events-registration) and register via the Learn@ISU website (http://learn.iastate.edu/).

Award-Winning Seminar Series
• **Real Talk About Inclusion:** Do your students feel safe? (with Audrey Kennis) Mar. 27 (12:10-1:30 p.m.)

Seminars, Workshops, and Workshop Series
• **Seminars, Top Hat Content Authoring,** Mar. 26 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
• **Workshop, Effectively managing disruptive classroom behavior,** Mar. 26 (3:10-4 p.m.)
• 3-Part Series, Sketchnoting for Visual Note Taking & more, Apr. 3, 30 & 17 (12:30-2 p.m.)

Building & Managing Your Course in Canvas Workshop Series
• **Personalized Learning in Canvas,** Mar. 11 (9:30-11 a.m.)
• Video Instruction and Learning in Canvas, Mar. 12 (10-11:30 a.m.)
• Rubrics and Outcomes in Canvas, Mar. 14 (3-4:30 p.m.)
• Your Canvas Course on Smart Devices, Mar. 15 (9:30-11 a.m.)

Programs on Teaching Inclusively
• Inclusive Classroom Workshop, Mar. 13 (2:10-5 p.m.), or Apr. 12 (9 a.m.-Noon)
• Discussion, Does my _____ scare you? Let’s talk about it - An open discussion on microaggressions & perceived bias with Lover Chancler, Director of The Center for Multiculturalism and Inclusivity at University of Central Missouri, March 29 (1:10-3 p.m., Gallery Room, MU - registration not required). This event is sponsored by the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS), the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), and the HDFS Graduate Student Network
• Workshop, Navigating controversial topics in the classroom, Apr. 2 (2:10-3 p.m.)

ISU Online Learning Community
• Seminar, ISU Online Leaning Community (ISU-OLC), Mar. 15, & Apr. 5 (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Quality Matters (QM) Programming
• Quality Matters Teaching and Learning Community, Mar. 8 (10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)
• Workshop, Improving Your Online Course (IYOC), Mar. 29 (8 a.m.-Noon)

Team-Based Learning (TBL) Programming
• Team-Based Learning-Teaching and Learning Community (for graduates of the TBL Series), Mar. 13 (12:10-1:30 p.m.)