Effective innovations about online discussion

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Changing education system

Teacher → Student

Content → Context

Blended-learning
Face-to-face
+ e-learning
Introduction to the research

• "Innovation of teaching" program was launched in January 2009, aiming at facilitating teachers to enhance teaching and learning in Peking University, especially using blended-learning.

• This presentation is based on a case study of this program.
Introduction to the program

Objective: use blended-learning to enhance effective learning

Pedagogy:
- Online discussion
- Online evaluation
- PBL
- ...

Platform:
- Resource
- Forum
- Examination
- Assignment
- ...

Introduction to the program

Six months, 4 phases

- Jan./Jul.
- Feb./Sep.
- Mar./Oct.
- Apr./Nov.
- Jun./Dec.
- Jul./Jan.

Design & Prepare
Training for new session

Trial
Technology support seminar once a month, visit teacher’s class once at least

Implement

summarize
Training for new session
Introduction to the program

• about 20-25 teachers each session
• totally 8 sessions and 177 teachers by now
• the ninth session is under processing.

Teachers explored many innovations and today’s presentation is focusing on online discussion
Do we need online discussion?

Theory

• From a socio-cultural perspective, interaction is a key foundation of learning.
• According to a survey in 2012 of freshman in Peking University, on the top of their demand list is interaction with professors.

Reality

• Lecture is the main teaching method.
• Because of time and class size, few communication between student and professor or among students.
• Few students appear during office hour
The usage of online discussion

- Use and successful: 30%
- Use but not so successful: 43%
- Not use: 27%
Innovations to successful online discussion

- Teacher’s facilitation
- Peer-learning
- Discussion Assignment
- Integrate
- Summarize
Not only discuss, but also summarize

– Let students to be responsible for summarizing, developing multiple skills
  • summarizing, critical thinking, information evaluation
– Summary as learning material, let students realize the value of their work
  • For example: recommend reference materials
– Summary can be multimedia, not only just text
Peer-learning

- Students review and evaluate each other’s posts
- Former students’ posts as learning materials
- Former students are invited to share online discussion experience
Integrate with face-to-face teaching

Before Class
• Collect needs, requirements and questions for class

In Class
• Summarize or feedback online discussion
• Post instead of calling the roll

After Class
• Discuss for deeper understanding or multiple perspectives of content in class
Discussion Assignment

– Basic requirements
– as a part of evaluation
– challenging;
  • Asking at least a question once a week as the assignment, high quality question can get plus scores.
Teacher’s facilitate

– Provide instructions on how to discuss online;
– Provide feedback, let students know teachers are paying attention on their discussion, this is an encourage for students to be more engaged.
More innovations are needed and we are working on it.
Thank You!

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