

The Question: How Do We Engage Students?

Engaging Students Through Active Classroom Learning: You Don't Always Get What You Want

... and with a little help from my friends

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My Answer

- My classes are part lecture, part staff meeting, and part group process
- Getting to know students' majors, activities, past and current employment
- Group formation and changes
- Group activities
 - Board work and Google Docs
 - Use of technology
 - Real life scenarios
 - Problems to solve
 - Answering questions on assignments
 - Group projects
 - Presenting information

What I want:

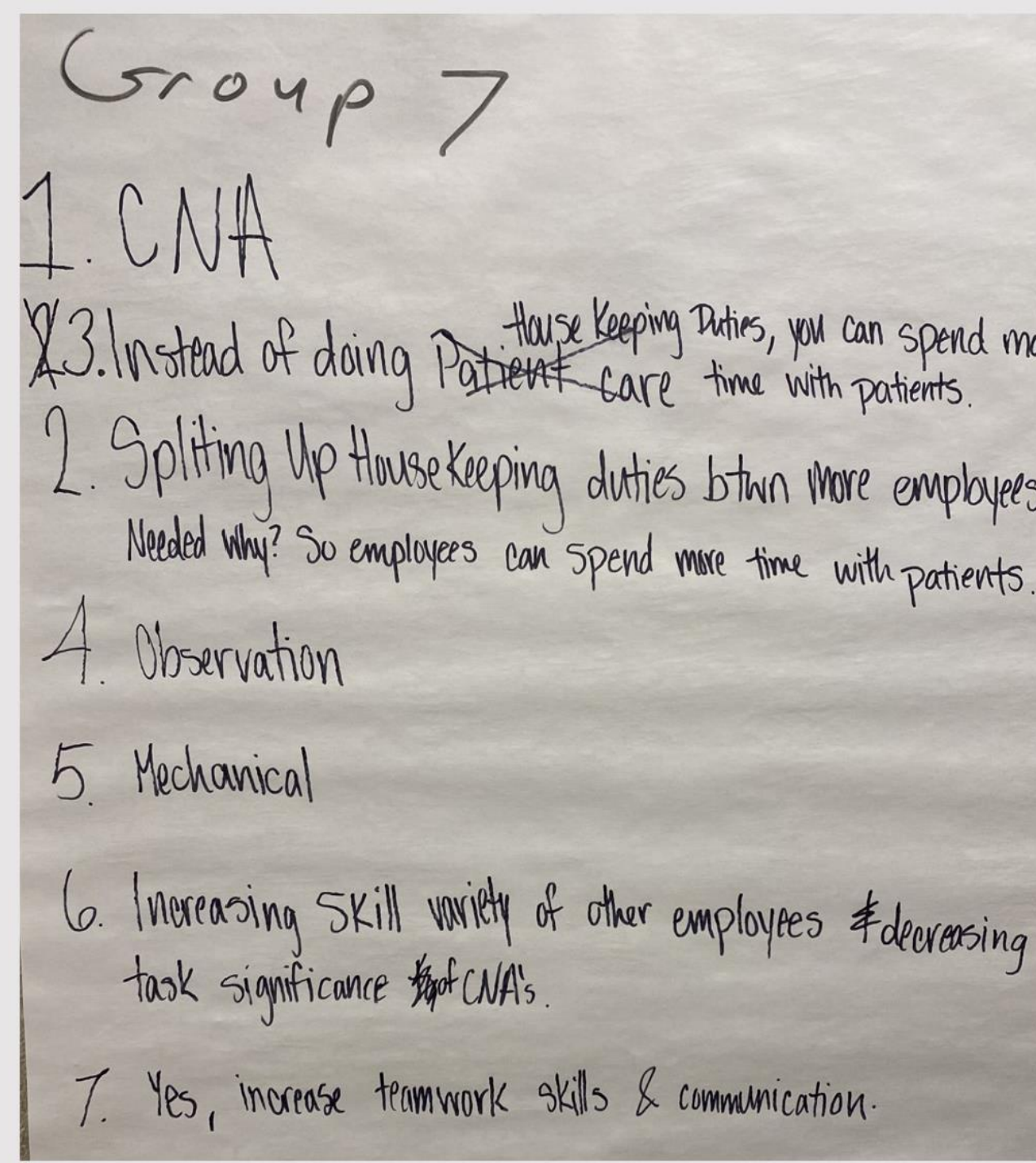
- Reinforcement of key concepts
- Students learning from each other

Making this work – my learning curve

- I have been learning as I go – I didn't get here all at once
- Good conditions – Active Learning rooms
- Less than optimal conditions – Theater Seating
- Class activities – each class session
- Group size – 4 to 6
- Group composition to balance roles and abilities
- Leaders and the disengaged
- Technology – TopHat, Google Docs
- Assignments – 2 group assignments
- Class size - 45

Discussion #4: Redesign and Job You Know

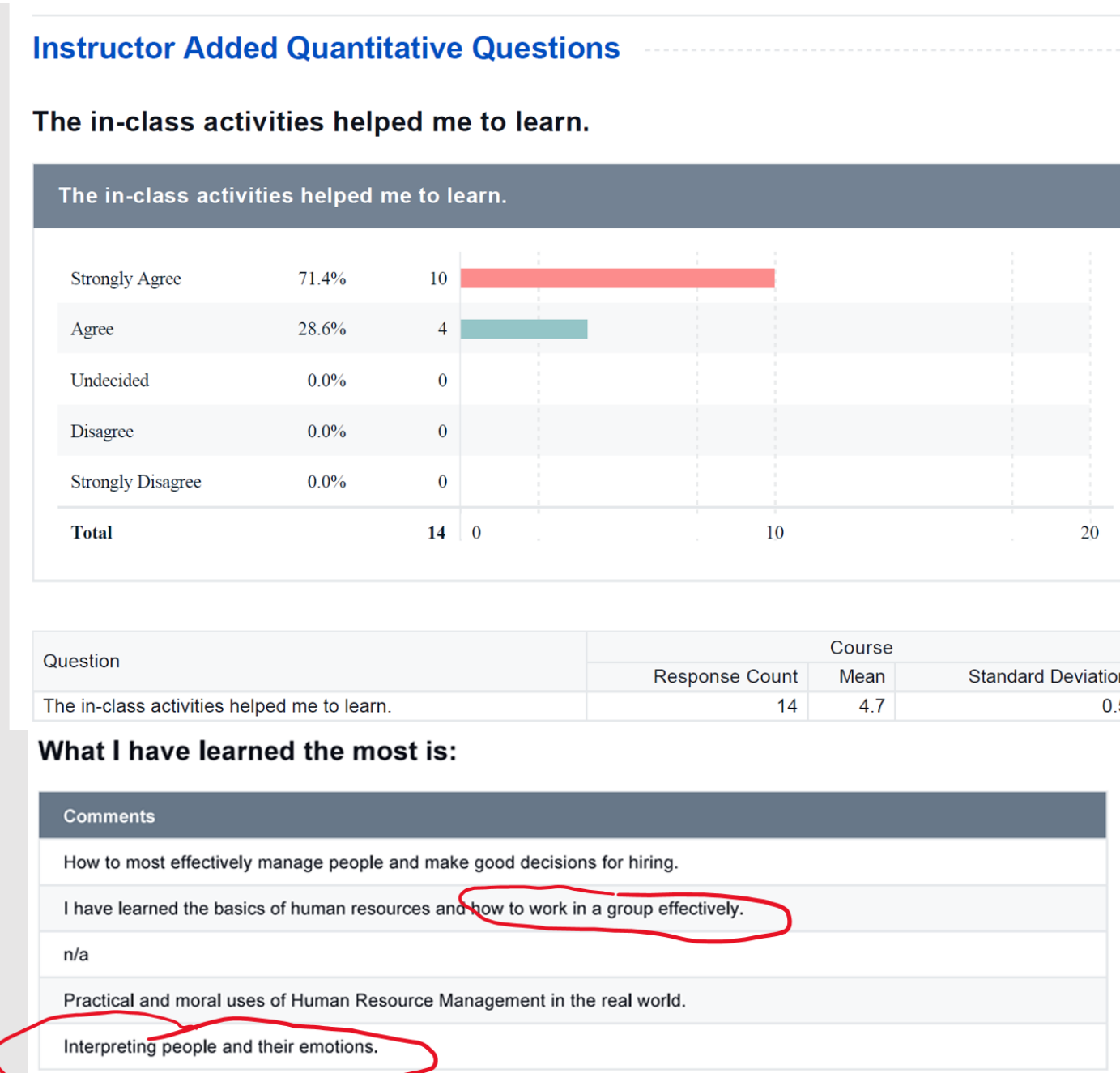
1. In a group, choose a job that you know and have done.
2. What would you change? Why is the change needed?
3. What do you want to achieve?
4. Method of job analysis (interview, observation, log, etc.)?
5. What would you change in design (mechanical, bio/physical, perceptual, motivational)?
6. What characteristics would you change (skill variety, task identity, task significance, autonomy, feedback)?
7. Do the changes influence employee engagement?



What I Have Learned – Tips and Ideas

- Google Docs and TopHat
- Save work and come back to it
- Dry erase boards are OK
- Flip charts work, too
- Group size – 4 to 6
- Just enough seating, no one hides in corners
- Organize groups to face the front
- Contact hypothesis – grouping students who might not otherwise work together

Hearing from the Students



And Being Transparent . . .

Fall 2023 Individual Report

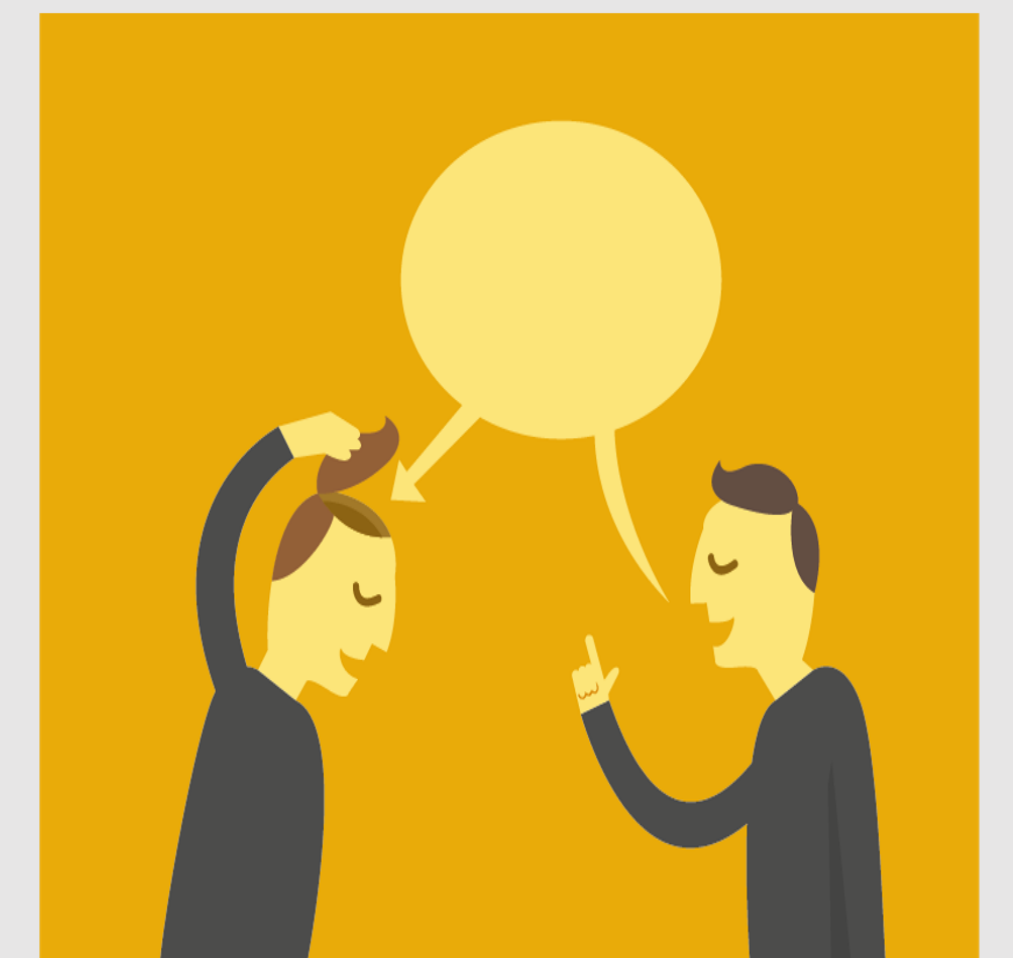
What did you like least about this course and instructor?

Comments:

- N/A
- I didn't love the in-class activities because it was always the same 2 people leading the groups while others would sit there and play games.
- no complaints!
- N/A
- Nothing!! He was a great professor and I appreciated all the lessons so I can apply them in the real world.
- N/A
- I didn't have any issues or problems with this class
- I did not really like participating in groups a lot but I still enjoyed my time with my peers
- None
- Nothing
- There wasn't anything I did not like

What Am I Doing Next?

- Communication skills (What is this conversation (or any interaction really about?)
 - Goals
 - Emotions
 - Identities
- Debriefing meetings with groups
- Organizing groups



The Evidence: Scholarly Studies

- Research
- Certified Active Learning Classrooms
- IU's Mosaic Initiative



The Evidence: What I Have Seen

Test scores

- Low scores are higher
- High scores are higher
- More concentration in the B range

Attendance

- Avg 84%
- Up from 78.5%

Group cohesion

- Good students become better and average students become good students
- Students learn from each other

Sources

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