COLLABORATIVE QUIZZES

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COURSES:
PHYSICS 1 (AEPH 113) AND **PHYSICS 2** (AEPH 115)

SUMMARY

Collaborative quizzes are an exam preparation activity with an opportunity for immediate feedback. Students attempt a quiz independently and then work in groups of 2-3 students to re-attempt the same quiz. This process allows students to check their understanding with peers.

GOALS

- Foster students' problem-solving skills
- Encourage collaborative learning
- Provide structured mid-term and final exam preparation

> ***"Collaborative quizzes help students develop effective study habits. Students try something, fail, and try it again. Getting into that rhythm is important."***
>
> - David Titley-Peloquin

STEPS

1. Individually, students have 10-15 minutes to attempt the quiz, which requires solving one or two problems. Students must illustrate the steps they followed to solve each problem.
2. The instructor collects the quizzes.
3. Working in groups of 2-3, students have another 15 minutes to attempt the same problem(s) together.
4. The instructor collects the quizzes.
5. The instructor or TA grades and returns both the individual and group quizzes so that students may reference them in preparation for exams.

ASSESSMENT

Students attempt four quizzes throughout the semester, each worth 2% of the final grade. Marks are determined as follows:

- 1 = correct answer
- .5 = on the way to arriving at the correct answer
- 0 = incorrect answer

Students receive a grade for the individual quiz and a grade for the group quiz. Each student's overall quiz grade is the average of the two numbers.

READY TO TRY IT OUT?

HERE'S SOME ADVICE ...

- Like any new idea, start slowly. Try a few collaborative quizzes, and see how it goes.
- Schedule the quizzes throughout the semester so that students can use the feedback to prepare for mid-term and final exams.
- Assign students to different groups for each quiz so that they have the opportunity to work with different people.
- Don't make the quizzes worth too much of the final grade. Emphasize that collaborative quizzes are a good practice activity.

BENEFITS

- Small group work helps develop a sense of community, which is especially beneficial in introductory courses.
- Group quizzes serve as peer tutoring sessions. Stronger students help weaker ones and learn through the process of teaching. Students recognize their strengths and weaknesses in relation to peers.

CHALLENGES

- Implementing this strategy requires a classroom space that allows students to cluster in small groups. Alternatively, TAs can administer the quizzes during different sections of scheduled lab time. In this case, you need to develop multiple versions since students will not attempt the quiz simultaneously.
- Students should have access to all versions of the quizzes (and their respective solutions) on myCourses for additional practice.

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