

Does Implementing an Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique (IFAT) Help Students Learn?

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My Objectives

- To determine if students perform better when working in teams or individually.
- To determine if students are more motivated when working in teams using IFAT cards.

Sample

- 32 students in my ACC 420 (Operational Audit) class.
 - Team sizes consist of the following:
 - Team 1: 6 students
 - Team 2: 6 students
 - Team 3: 6 students
 - Team 4: 5 students
 - Team 5: 5 students
 - Team 6: 4 students
- TOTAL 32 students

Testing the Effectiveness of IFATs

- Procedure:

- Gave the students two identical quizzes to work individually. They were instructed not to put their names on their quiz. Each quiz question represents one (unrecorded) point. As an incentive, the highest scoring team would receive 2 points extra credit.
- Collected the quiz and distributed one IFAT card to teams with sizes ranging from four to six members per team.
- Team members completed the same quiz, but now were instructed to use the IFAT cards when answering the questions.
- Students were allowed twenty minutes to complete each quiz.
- Students were asked to provide any feedback about what they thought of using this technique more frequently in class.

Results

(Individual Performance vs. Team Performance)

| Team Number | Average of number of first time correct answers (Individuals) | Number of first time correct answers (Teams with IFAT cards) |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1 | 5.1 | 6 |
| 2 | 3.5 | 4 |
| 3 | 4.7 | 4 |
| 4 | 4.2 | 6 |
| 5 | 4.6 | 6 |
| 6 | 3.8 | 3 |

Class wide Results

- The average score for all students is 4.34 out of ten points possible.
- The average score for all teams is 4.83 out of ten points possible.

Considering the Size of Each Team

| Group Number | Group Size | Total Points on IFAT Card |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Group 1 | 6 students | 25 |
| Group 2 | 6 students | 23 |
| Group 3 | 6 students | 23 |
| Group 4 | 5 students | 25 |
| Group 5 | 5 students | 24 |
| Group 6 | 4 students | 19 |

Student Comments About IFATs

- “We thought it was beneficial because it allows students to teach other students and explain answers to each other.”
- “Its funner.”
- “Good way to learn, makes it more interesting to learn and facilitates discussion.”

Concluding Remarks

- IFAT cards may not work in all classes.
- **Selecting Teams**
 - Equal size vs. unequal size.
 - Diversify teammates vs. allow them to choose their own team.
- Too much teamwork in your class may not be a good thing.