

Title: Math Journal

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Describe the problem, issue, or area of interest and the context.

I choose this project because students were having problems understanding the concepts of the material presented. I could never make them read the book before class. After lecturing, I would assign homework, which only a few students did. I needed to improve the way my students interact in the classroom. So I choose to do the Math Journal.

Define your desired goals, or "outcomes."

- 1) I wanted students to participate and interact with other students.
- 2) Read the section we were going to cover before coming to class.
- 3) Do the homework.

Describe your "indicators" of success.

A questionnaire was given at the end of the semester and 95% of the students agreed that reading the book before class helped them follow the lecture in class and do better on the quizzes.

Describe your project.

We called it the Math Journal. The classroom was divided into groups of 4 students. We had six groups. The students had to read ahead in their textbook. In a notebook they had to write down the key points for the section to be covered in class. They also had to write any questions or concepts that were confusing. At every class meeting they had to put it in my desk and for the first ten-fifteen minutes I would go over their notes. In the meantime they had to get together and discuss the homework problems and help each other.

After the fifteen minutes, I answered the questions they had and gave them a quiz. (One or two questions)

Describe your results.

I believe that I accomplished part of my goal because 40% of the students dropped the course. For the rest of the students the project was successful because they got used to read ahead of time and were trying to solve problems on their own before I lectured. What I learned is what students perceived as more confusing in a lecture and I spent more time on that part. I also learned that most students like to work in groups and help each other.

I will do the project again.

Describe your evaluation methods.

First I compared the grades between two classes. The two classes were the same (Intermediate Algebra) and they were both on MWF. The material presented, the quizzes and the tests were the same for both classes. On one class we did the Math Journal on the other class we did not.

At the end of the semester the students who did the math journal were able to have a better understanding of the concepts. During the semester the average of the grades on the quizzes and on the tests was higher.

I will do the project again but instead of quizzing them at every class meeting, I will give weekly quizzes. (Too much grading).