

Assessing Student Engagement at the Classroom Level

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Presentation Outline

- A. Background Handouts: CLASSE Highlights
- B. CLASSE Users Survey: Preliminary Pilot Test Results
- C. Participation in the 2009-10 Pilot Study
- D. Discussion: Reactions & Impressions

A. Background Handouts: CLASSE Highlights

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A. What is the CLASSE?

The Classroom Survey of Student Engagement (CLASSE) is a measure of the level of student engagement within a single designated course.

The CLASSE is composed of two instruments:

- **CLASSE_{Student}** - asks students how frequently they engage in various educational practices within the course
- **CLASSE_{Faculty}** - asks the faculty instructor how important the various educational practices are in facilitating student success within the course

The CLASSE enables one to compare what students are doing with what the instructor believes is important for being successful within the designated course.

Why was the CLASSE developed?

Institutional Engagement Results → "Not my students!"
 ↓
 Disaggregate to the College Level → "Sample size too small!"
 ↓
 Department Level Results → "Not my students!"
 ↓
Can We Measure Student Engagement at the Classroom Level

Research Questions:

- #1 - Can we measure levels of student engagement in the classroom?
- #2 - Will levels of student engagement vary as a function of how important the instructor views the engagement practice in the class?
- #3 - Could these measures of classroom engagement be used to prompt instructional improvement initiatives?

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CLASSE_{Student}

- Part I: Engagement Activities (n=19)
- Part II: Cognitive Skills (n=5)
- Part III: Other Educational Practices (n=10)
- Part IV: Class Atmosphere Impressions (n=4)
- Part V: Optional Course-specific Items (n=8)
- Part VI: Demographic Items (n=3)

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B. CLASSE Users Survey: Preliminary Pilot Test Results

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2008-2009 CLASSE User's Survey

Response Rate = 51% (21 of 41)
 Total Classes = 480
 Total Faculty = 172
 Total Student Respondents = 10,115

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Survey Items

1. Problems administering the CLASSE? Biggest obstacles?
2. Problems/obstacles analyzing and/or reporting CLASSE results?
3. Faculty reactions to their CLASSE results?
4. What did you learn from CLASSE results you didn't expect?
5. What CLASSE findings came as no surprise?
6. How can administration, analysis and/or reporting of CLASSE be improved?
7. Do you plan to administer the CLASSE again? Why? Why not?

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Pilot Study: Conclusions

1. Administration, Analysis, & Reporting Labor Intensive
2. CLASSE complements end-of-course evaluations but greater diagnostic utility....helped to prompt constructive changes
3. Create an online version; automate scoring and analysis

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Pilot Study: Concerns

1. Over-surveying students
2. Conflicts with NSSE out in the field
3. Not Using the data (closing the loop)

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C. Participation in the 2009-10 Pilot Study

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C. Participation in the 2009-10 Pilot Study

How Much ?

- Free to those who participated in the national administration of the NSSE within the past 3 years

What is the End-Users Role as a Participant in the Pilot Study?

- Produce survey instruments
- Obtain local IRB approval
- Administer the survey instruments
- Summarize, analyze and report results

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How is one Authorized to Participate in the 2009-10 Pilot Study?

Steps:

- Decide how many faculty, how many classes
- Construct (up to 8) course-specific items
- Decide mode of administration (paper/web)
- Prepare drafts of your CLASSE_{Student} and CLASSE_{Faculty} instruments
- Seek authorization to participate from Amber Lambert (NSSE staff) (adlambert@indiana.edu) by attaching
 - drafts of CLASSE instruments
 - CLASSE Item Usage Proposal

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Special eCLASSE Now Available

- Once authorization for participation is obtained, contact Bob.smallwood@ua.edu for a free copy of
 - generic SurveyMonkey eCLASSE instruments and /or
 - Excel-based analysis & reporting applications

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D. Discussion: Reactions & Impressions

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1. **Potential value as a supplemental tool**
2. **Formative vs. Summative Assessment**
3. **Faculty Development**
4. **Student Learning**

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**Thanks for your
attention & participation**

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