# Increasing Active Learning in an Online Introductory Statistics Course with Low-Stakes Assignments

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## Objectives

- I. Define active learning
- 2. Review active learning research
- 3. Demonstrate how low-stakes assignments can be used to promote active learning in an online course

## Define Active Learning

Instructional activities that encourage or require students to cognitively interact with content

## **Define Active Learning**

# Instructional activities that encourage or require students to cognitively interact with content



## Research

#### Active learning increases exam scores

Meta-analysis of 225 studies, average effect size of d = 0.47 [z = 9.781, p<.001; Freeman, et al. (2014)]

Course completion rates improve with active learning



## Research

Active learning can have a positive impact on students' attitudes

More favorable feelings about statistics and greater confidence (Carlson & Winquist, 2011)

## Active Learning Through Low-Stakes Assignments



Courses			
	Discussions		
Calendar	WileyPLUS		Question 3/6
山	eTextbook		View Policies
Inbox	Tutor.com		Current Attempt in Progress
Ġ	Grades		
Commons	Collaborations	Ø	Two variables are defined, a regression equation is given, and one data point is given.
$\square$	Files	Ø	Study = number of hours spent studying for an exam
Notices	Pages	Ø	Grade = grade on the exam
(?) Help	Assignments	Ø	Grade = 41.4 + 3.9(Study)
нер	Quizzes	Ø	
	Conferences	Ø	The data point is a student who studied 10 hours and received an 81 on the exam.
	Outcomes	Ø	
	People	Ø	(a) Find the predicted value for the data point and compute the residual.
	Settings		Enter the exact answers.
			Predicted value = i
			Residual = i
			eTextbook and Media
			Hint

(b) Interpret the slope in context.

 $\bigcirc$  Given a one hour increase in study time, expected change in *Grade* is 3.9.

• Given a one point increase in *Grade*, expected change in *Study* time is 3.9 hours.

 ${}^{\odot}\,$  Given a one hour increase in study time, expected grade will be 3.9 .



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Account	Home										
	Announcements		Final Exam Practice Quiz (Required)								
Dashboard	Syllabus										
	Madulas			Quiz Type	Graded Quiz						
Courses	MUUUIES			Points	15						
Calendar	Discussions			Assignment Group	Quizzes						
	WilevPLUS			Shuffle Answers	No						
	eTextbook			Time Limit	30 Minutes						
重 Inbox	Tutor.com			Multiple Attempts	Yes						
	Grades			Score to Keep	Highest						
<b>€</b> →	Grades			Attempts	Unlimited						
Commons	Collaborations	Ø		View Responses	Always						
$\square$	Files	Ø		Show Correct Answers	Until May 5 at 12am						
Notices	Pages	ø		One Question at a Time	Yes						
? Help	Assignments Ø			Lock Questions After Answering	No						
r te.p	Quizzes	Ø	Due	For	Available from	Until					
	Conferences	Ø	May 5	Everyone	-	May 5 at 11:5	9pm				
	Outcomes	Ø									
	People	Ø			Preview						
	Settings										

## Grade Breakdown

Group	Group Weight	Number of Assignments	Weight per Assignment	Number of Attempts	
WileyPLUS	15%	12	1.25%	Unlimited	Very Low Stakes
		12 Lesson Quizzes		Lesson Quizzes = 2	
Quizzes	15%	3 Exam Practice Quizzes	Exam Practice Quizzes = Unlimited		
Lab Assignments	20%	12	1.667%	One	
Midterm Exams	30%	2	15%	One	<b>↓</b>
Final Exam	20%	Ι	20%	One	Very High Stakes

## References

- Carlson, K.A., & Winquist J. R. (2011). Evaluating an active learning approach to teaching introductory statistics: A classroom workbook approach. *Journal of Statistics Education*, 19(1). DOI: 10.1080/10691898.2011.11889596
- Freeman, S., Eddy, S. L., McDonough, M., Smith, M., Okoroafor, N., Jordt, H., & Wenderoth, M. P. (2014). Active learning increases student performance in science, engineering, and mathematics. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 111(23), 8410-8415. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1319030111