

The U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) 2021

Can assessments make you job-ready?

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**The University of
Queensland**

**Developed
and
Implemented
a novel
assessment**

The University of Queensland,
Australia

Introduction to Biostatistics- an
introductory postgraduate course

Faculty of Medicine

120+ students (different academic
backgrounds)

Assessments!!!

- Excitement, stress, deadlines
- Interesting?
- Can it make students job-ready?

Assessments in biostatistics

- Biostatistics assessments-traditional quizzes, data analysis assignments
- Implemented a new assessment in biostatistics class- 2020
- Aims to make students ready for work environment





Why job-ready?

- Students in this course are already working, doing PhD, looking for jobs
- Require skills crucial for work environment
- This assessment aims to enhance skills

Component 1: Exposure to the real world



Identify a real data set



Real data set- workplace, PhD projects,
open database



Untidiness of a real dataset- challenge



Engages cognitive channels

Component 2: Learning and applying simultaneously



Weekly learnings- what we cover in our course



Apply weekly learnings to their dataset



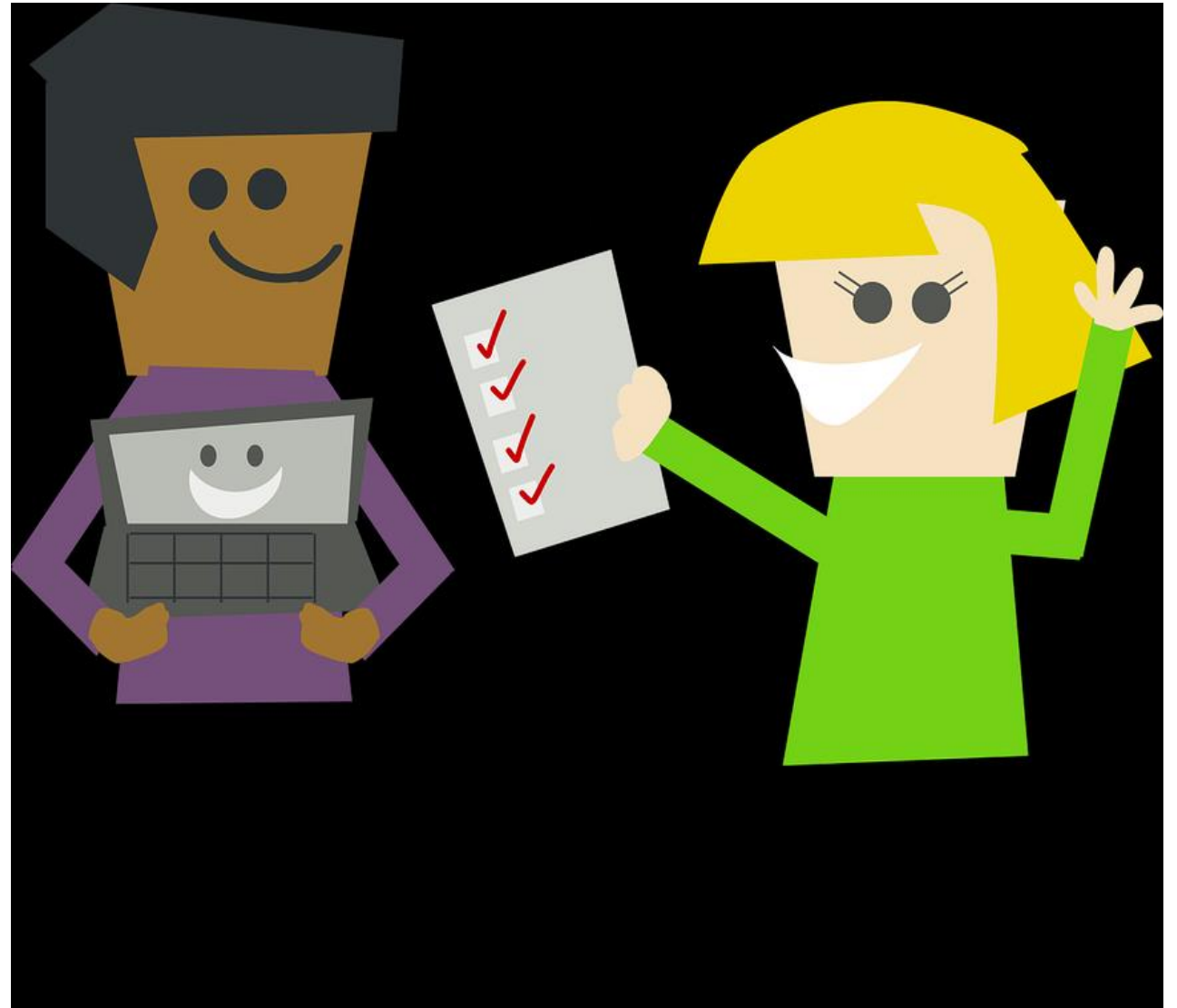
Going beyond imitation of disseminated examples



Moving towards enhancement of cognitive abilities

Component 3: Peer review

- Two randomly allocated peer reviews in week 3 and week 9
- Students act as real-world experts in their fields
- Constructive feedback improves performance



Component 4: Translation from classroom to the real-world



Four-minute video presentation



Compilation of their understanding



Lay audience



Communicate their experience and outcomes in the real world

Evaluation of our assessment



**ONLINE SURVEY AND SEMI-
STRUCTURED PHONE INTERVIEWS**



**SATISFACTION LEVELS AND VIEWS
ON THE ASSESSMENT**

Findings of the evaluation

- Most liked parts: **weekly tasks** and **peer reviewing**
- Most challenging parts: **video presentation** and **explaining content to a lay audience**
- Majority stated this assessment encouraged them to **think critically**
- Implementation in the **future**

What are we doing now?



Four-minute video to five-minute video



Concern about loose/vague instructions



Suggestions to implement this assessment framework in advanced postgraduate level biostatistics courses



Another data collection on student perspective, operational difficulties, and effectiveness of the assessment



Expanding opportunities

- For employment and career development
- Advocates that students learn and apply knowledge simultaneously through assessments
- Potential employees may be assured that graduates will be immediately productive

THANK YOU

