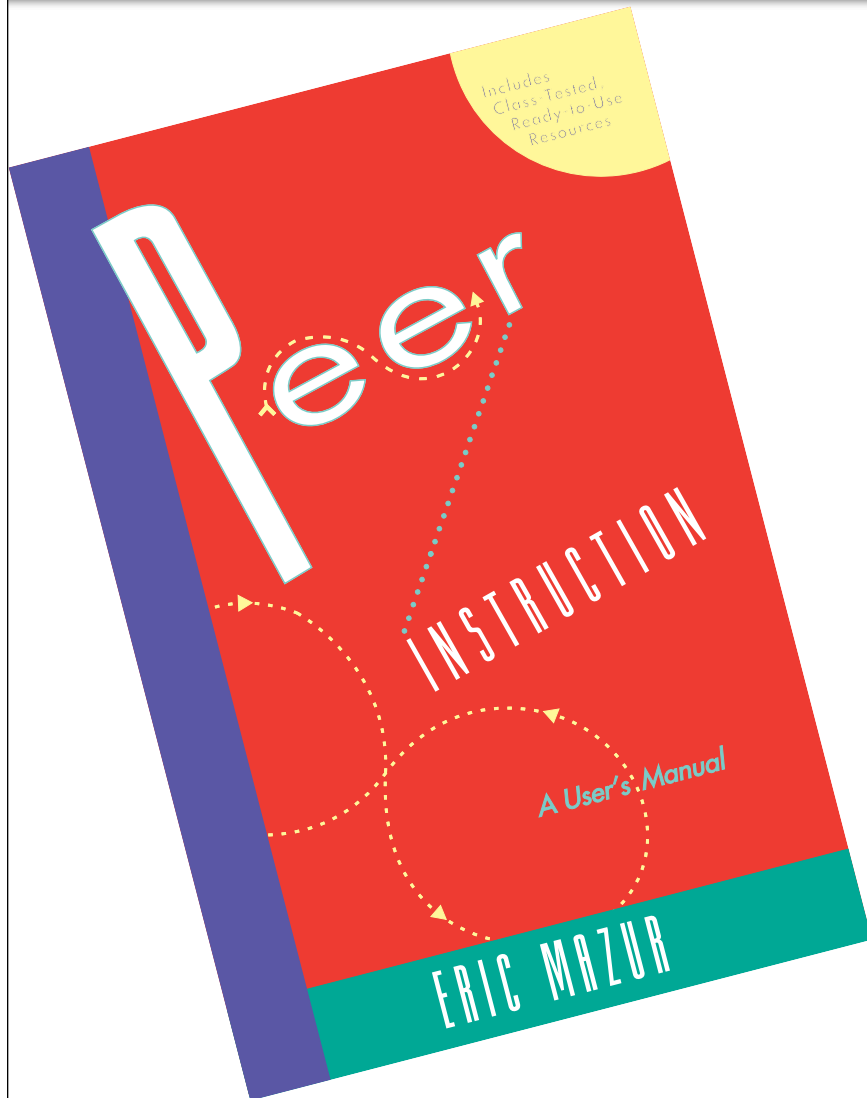


# Peer Instruction Workshop



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Austin, TX



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TEACHING  
LEARNING   
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



[mazur.harvard.edu](http://mazur.harvard.edu)



# Get your clickers ready!

## Peer Instruction (Eric Mazur)

1. Never heard of it
2. Heard of it, but don't really know what it is
3. Quite familiar with it
4. I use it in my classes

A grayscale photograph of a large lecture hall. In the foreground and middle ground, many students are seated at desks, each with a laptop open. They are facing towards the right side of the frame. In the background, a lecturer is standing at a podium, facing the audience. The hall has tiered seating. Overlaid on the top right of the image is a network diagram consisting of several circular nodes connected by lines, resembling a molecular structure or a network graph.

***“What exactly does interactive teaching mean?”***

***“What does it exactly mean, interactive teaching?”***



Problem: traditional teaching focuses on  
on information delivery

**but learning requires much more than information  
delivery, it requires information assimilation**

# Traditional teaching

1. Information delivery (coverage, easy) - job of the teacher
2. Information assimilation (understanding, hard) - left to the student

# Interactive teaching:

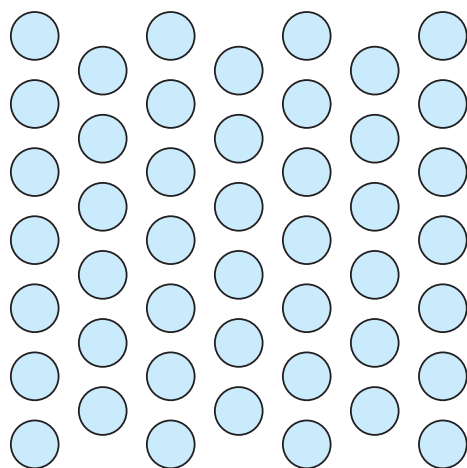
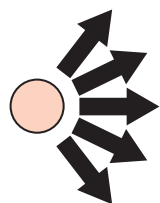
1. Information delivery (coverage, easy) - left to the student
2. Information assimilation (understanding, hard) - guided by the instructor

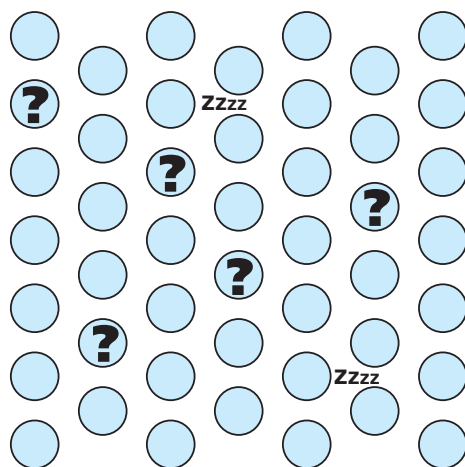
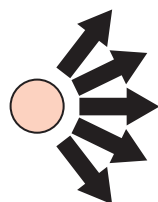


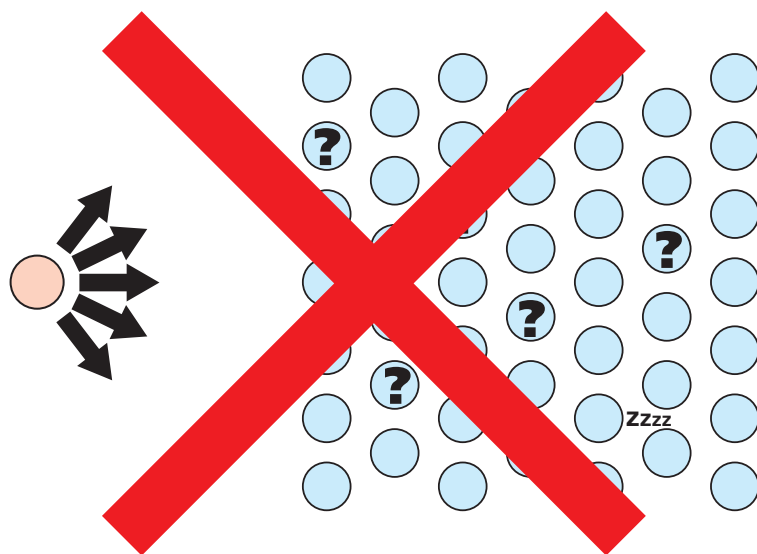
A grayscale photograph of a large lecture hall. Students are seated in rows, many with laptops open. A lecturer stands at the front right. A glowing network diagram with nodes and lines is overlaid on the top right of the image.

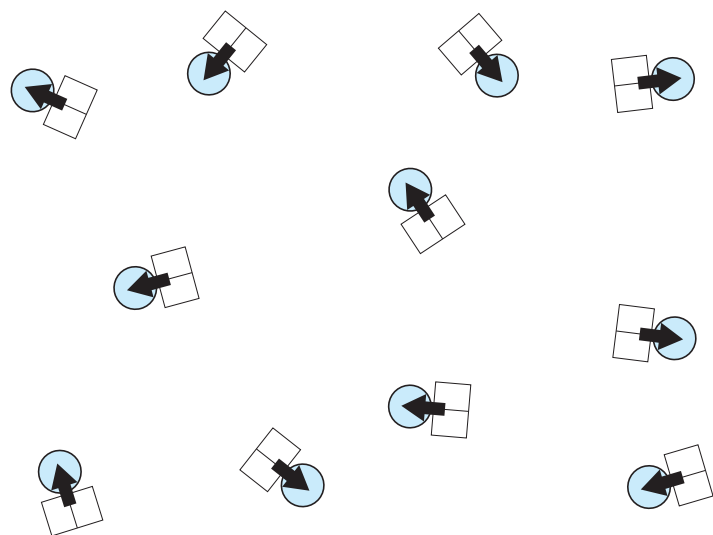
***“What is interactive teaching most effective for?”***

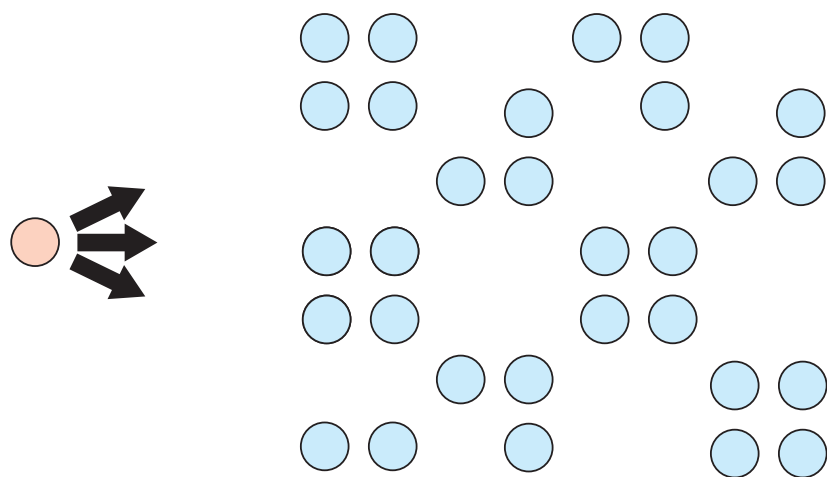


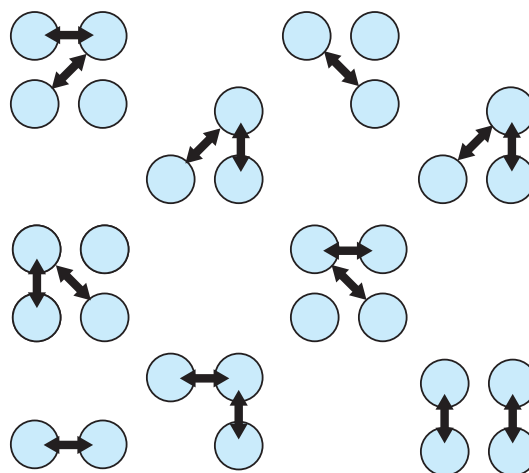


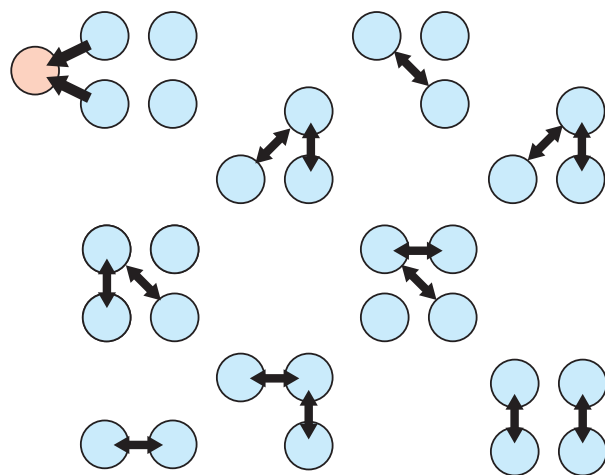




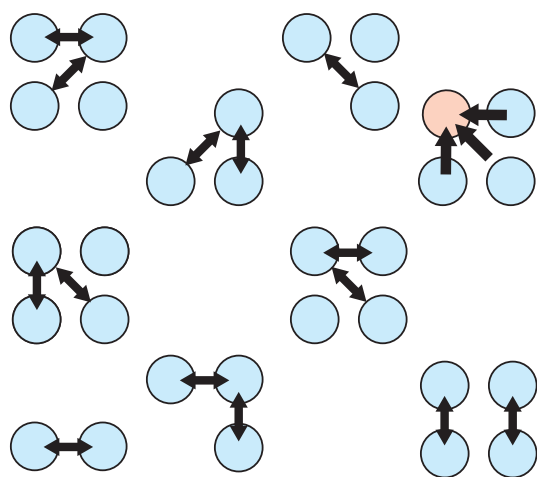








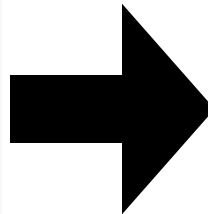




# Interactive teaching moves coverage out of and assimilation into the classroom.

1. Information delivery (coverage, easy) - left to the student

2. Information assimilation (understanding, hard) - guided by the instructor





***“What are the recommended methods to put interactive teaching into practice?”***

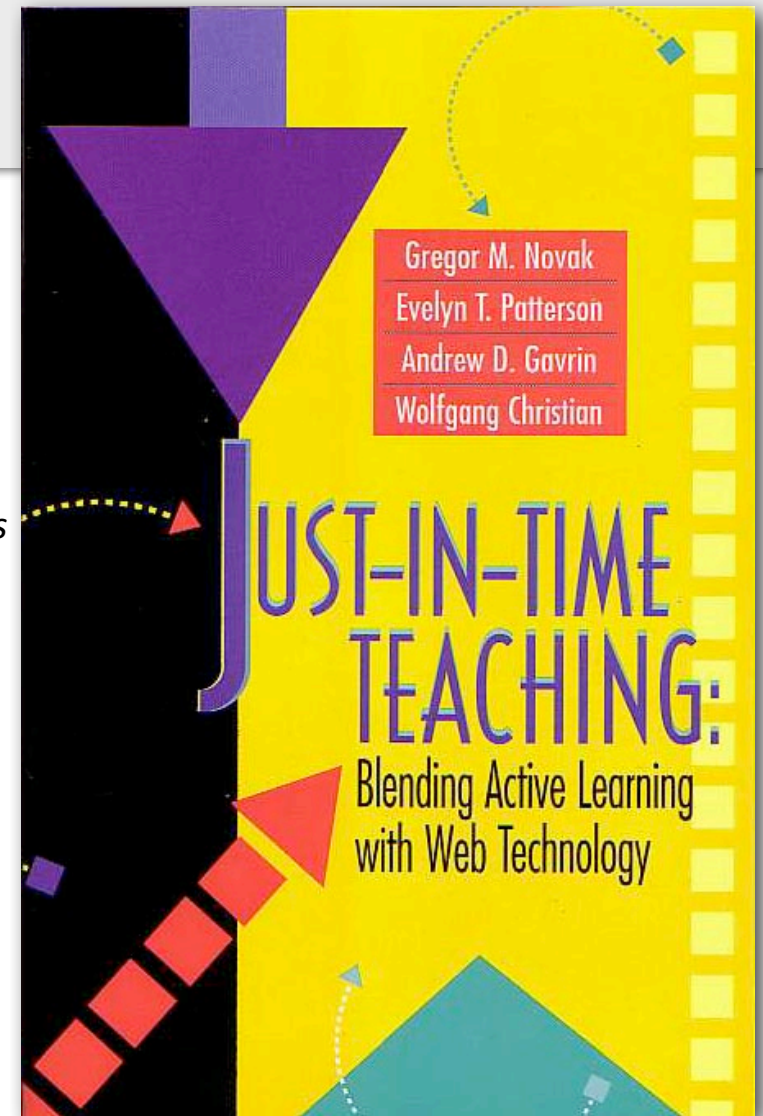
***“What are some interesting tools for interactive teaching?”***

## 2 Research-based Interactive Teaching Tools

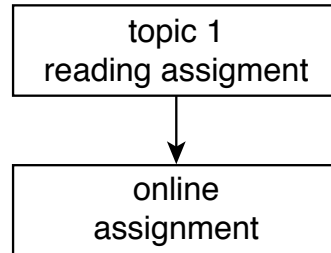
- *Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT): pre-class reading covers content*
- *Peer Instruction: in class time involves content assimilation*

## Just-in-time-teaching

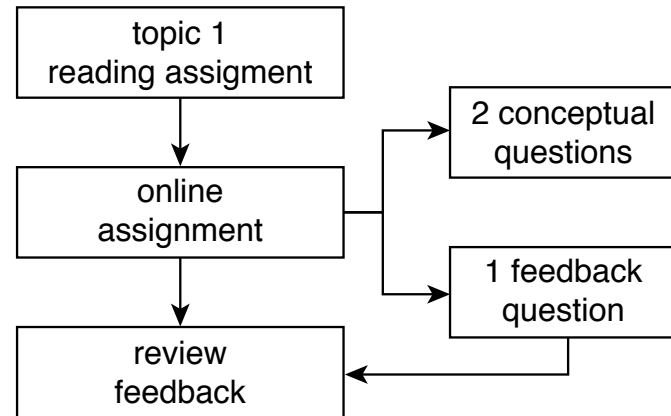
*Motivates students to cover material outside of class*



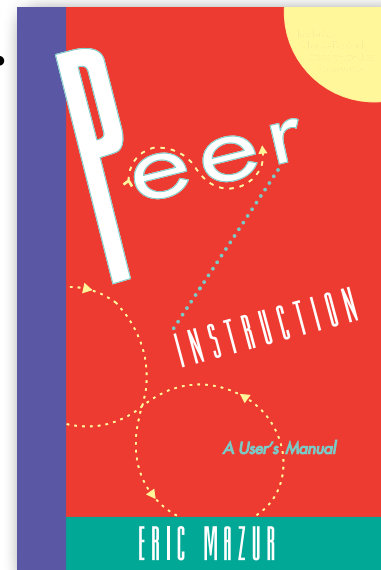
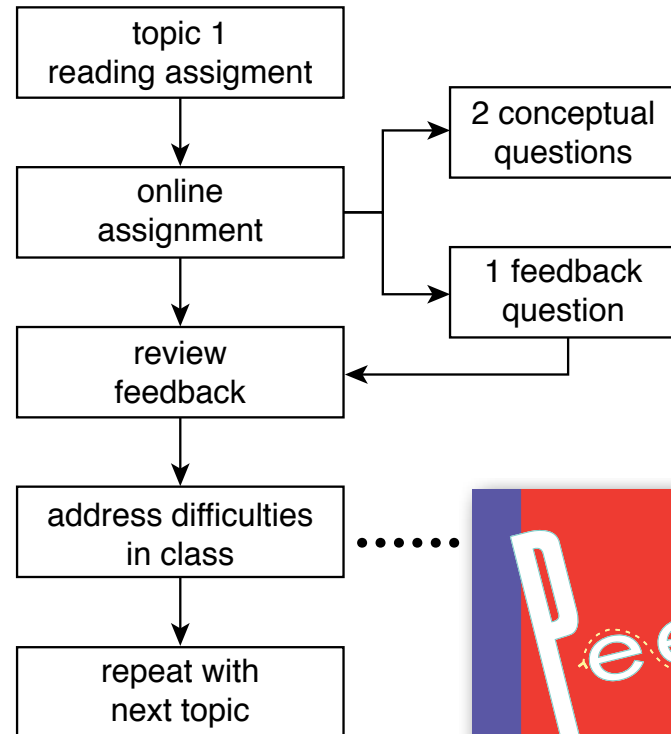
topic 1  
reading assignment







# JiTT



# JiTT

**1. What characteristic determines whether organisms belong to the same *species*? Why are, for instance, are Rottweilers, bulldogs, and poodles - phenotypically (ie physical appearance) very different - considered to be members of the same species - dogs? Why are all *humans*, despite our numerous phenotypic differences, considered to be one species?**

**From Debi** = I think the characteristic is their proteins. Each species has different proteins and can distinguish them from other similar species. The closer the relation between the two species, the more the proteins resemble each other. That is why all dogs and all humans, despite physical differences, are considered to be a part of their same species.

**From Erika** = A has to do with the common characteristics carried by each. Each Rottweiler, Bulldog, and Poodle have four legs, tail, covered in hair, they bark, and even have wet noses. These are some of the similar features looked for by species.

**2. What did you find most confusing about the reading on species? If you found nothing confusing, what do you think is most important for us to spend time discussing in class?**

**From Altman:** I was very confused about the concept of interbreeding. Is it right that if offspring also interbreed then they are considered the same species? If their offspring does not breed, then it is a different species, as in the case of horses and donkeys. The general rule applies that if two organisms interbreed and have fertile offspring, then the two organisms are of the same species, I think but I am not sure.

**From Walker** = I think it is important to focus on the concept of interbreeding. What is the difference between intrabreeding and interbreeding and does inbreeding mean the same thing?



***“How do I grade work from interactive teaching with large groups of students?”***

# JiTT

## **Ideas for Managing JiTT Grading in Large Classes**

If you have very large classes, it may be difficult for you to grade all of your students' responses for every JiTT exercise. There are several ways to decrease the amount of grading you do, while maintaining the number of JiTT exercises you use:

- You can grade only a random selection of the JiTT exercises you assign during the course.
- You can grade responses from a random selection of students for each exercise.
- You can award grades for completion, rather than accuracy of answers.

A grayscale photograph of a modern lecture hall. Students are seated at desks, many with laptops open. A person stands at the front right. A network diagram with nodes and lines is overlaid on the top right. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

***“How do I motivate introverted students to participate in an interactive class? How do I make students feel motivated most all the time?”***

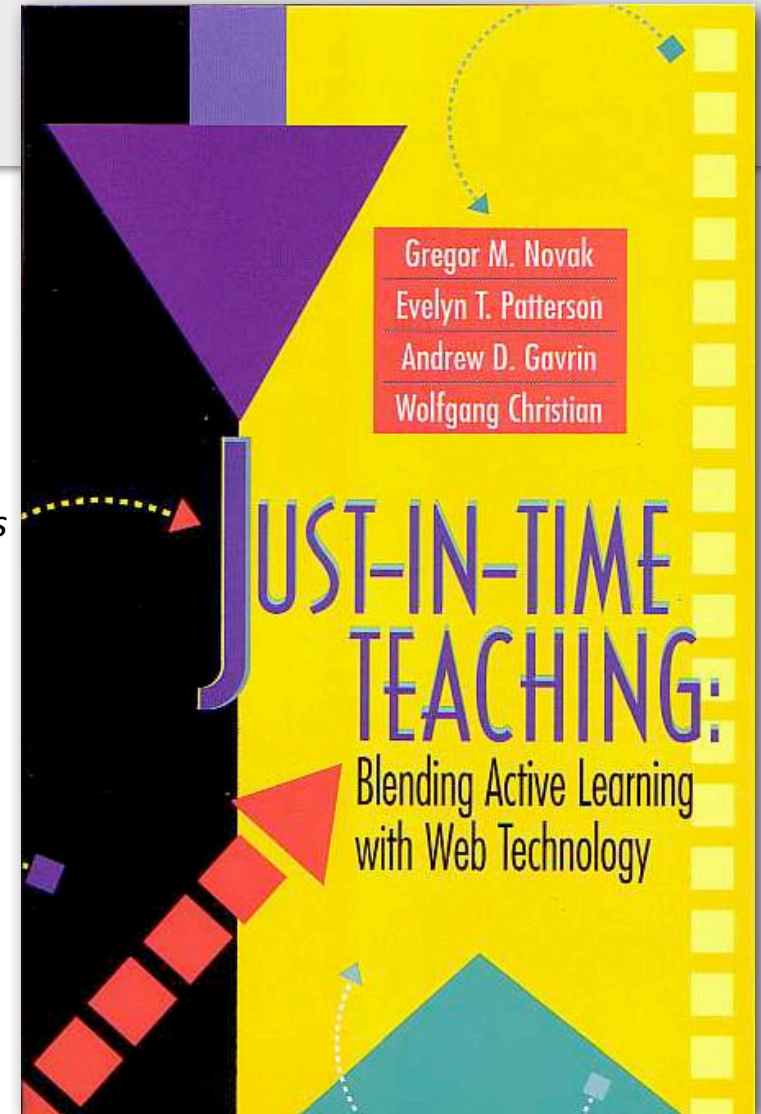
## Just-in-time-teaching

*Motivates students to cover material outside of class*

*Graded on effort, not correctness*

*Allows less active students to ask questions*

*Students spend class time addressing most difficult topics*





# Get your clickers ready!

The best way to motivate students to cover the material before they come to class is to...

1. tell them completing the readings will help them perform better on exams
2. tell them completing the readings will earn them points toward final grades
3. tell them completing the readings is optional but highly recommended
4. tell them completing the readings is required

## 2 Research-based Interactive Teaching Tools

- *Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT): pre-class reading covers content*
- *Peer Instruction: in class time involves content assimilation*

# Peer Instruction

*Traditional teaching:* <http://youtu.be/dxPVyieptwA>

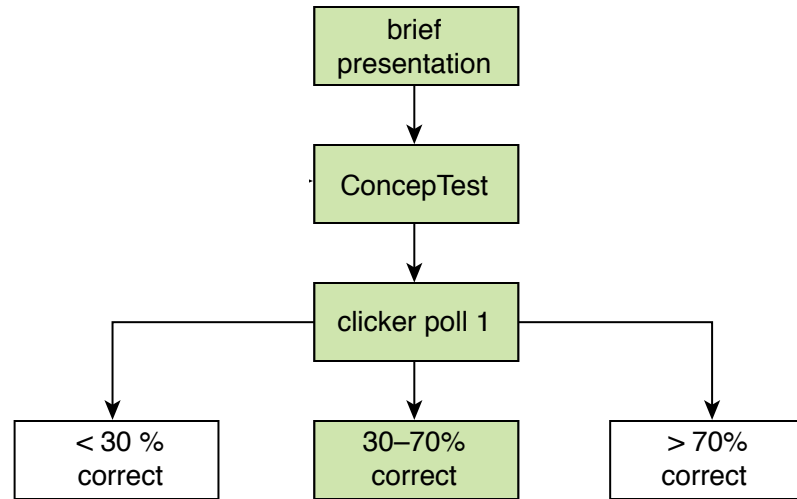
# Peer Instruction

*Peer Instruction:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>

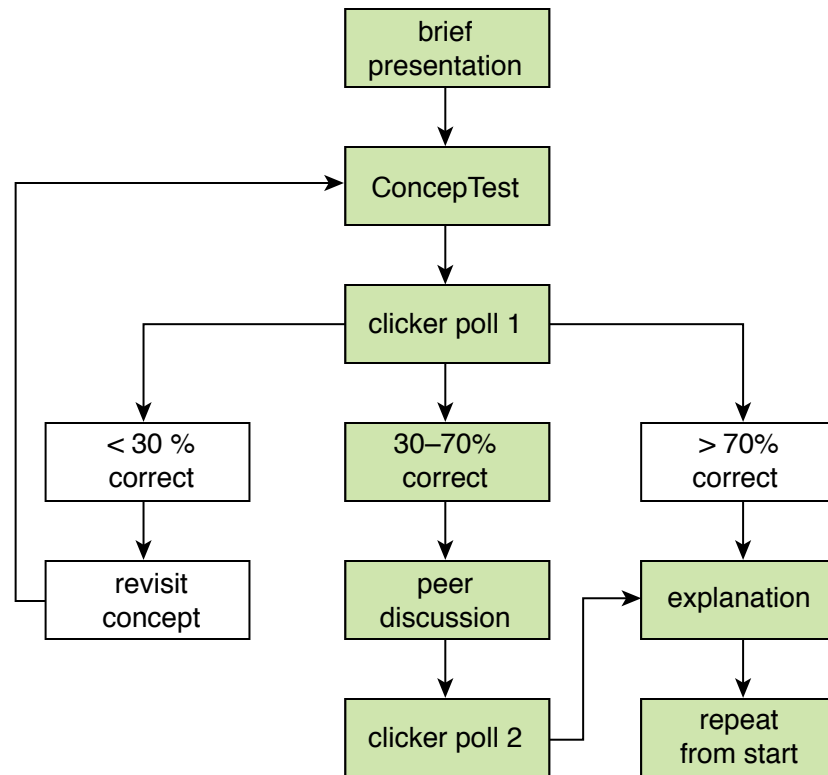
# Peer Instruction

brief  
presentation

# Peer Instruction



# Peer Instruction

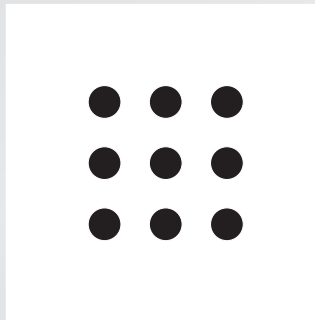




# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

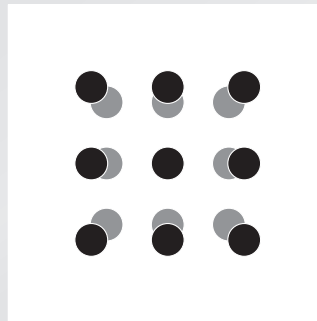
**When metals heat up, they expand because all atoms get farther away from each other.**



# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

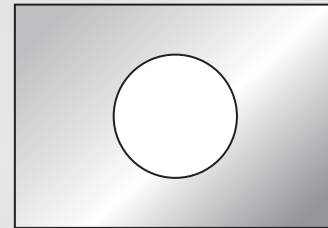
**When metals heat up, they expand because all atoms get farther away from each other.**



# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

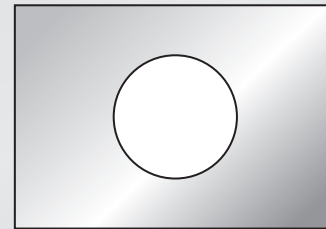
**Consider a rectangular metal plate  
with a circular hole in it.**



# Peer Instruction

## Let's try it!

Consider a rectangular metal plate with a circular hole in it.



When the plate is uniformly heated, the diameter of the hole

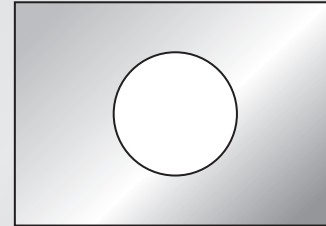
1. increases.
2. stays the same.
3. decreases.



# Peer Instruction

## Let's try it!

Consider a rectangular metal plate with a circular hole in it.



When the plate is uniformly heated, the diameter of the hole

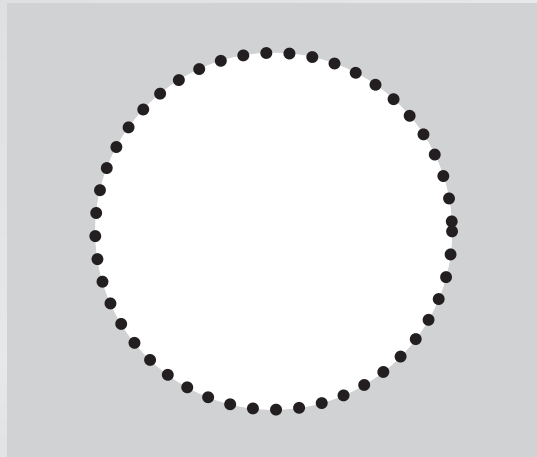
1. increases. ✓
2. stays the same.
3. decreases.



# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

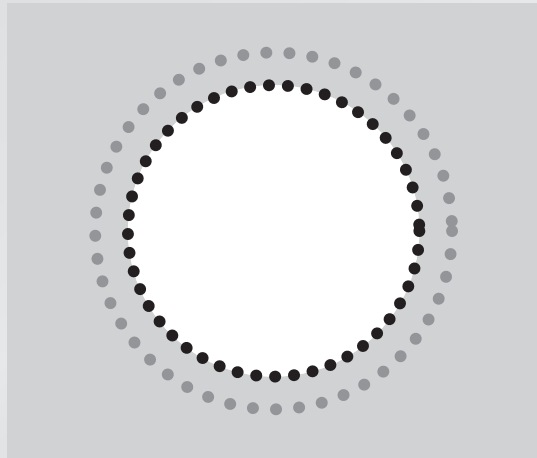
**consider the atoms at the rim of the hole**

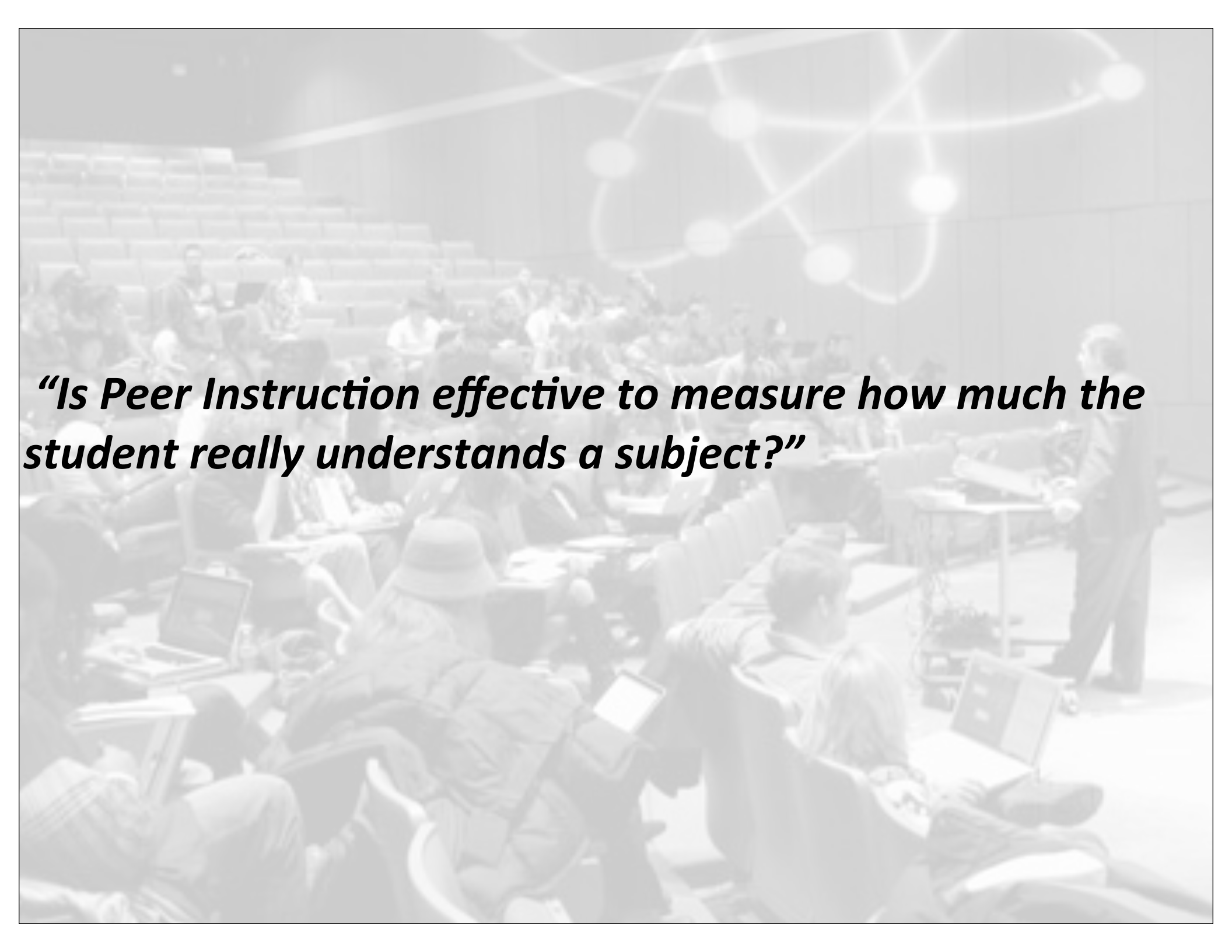


# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

**consider the atoms at the rim of the hole**





***“Is Peer Instruction effective to measure how much the student really understands a subject?”***

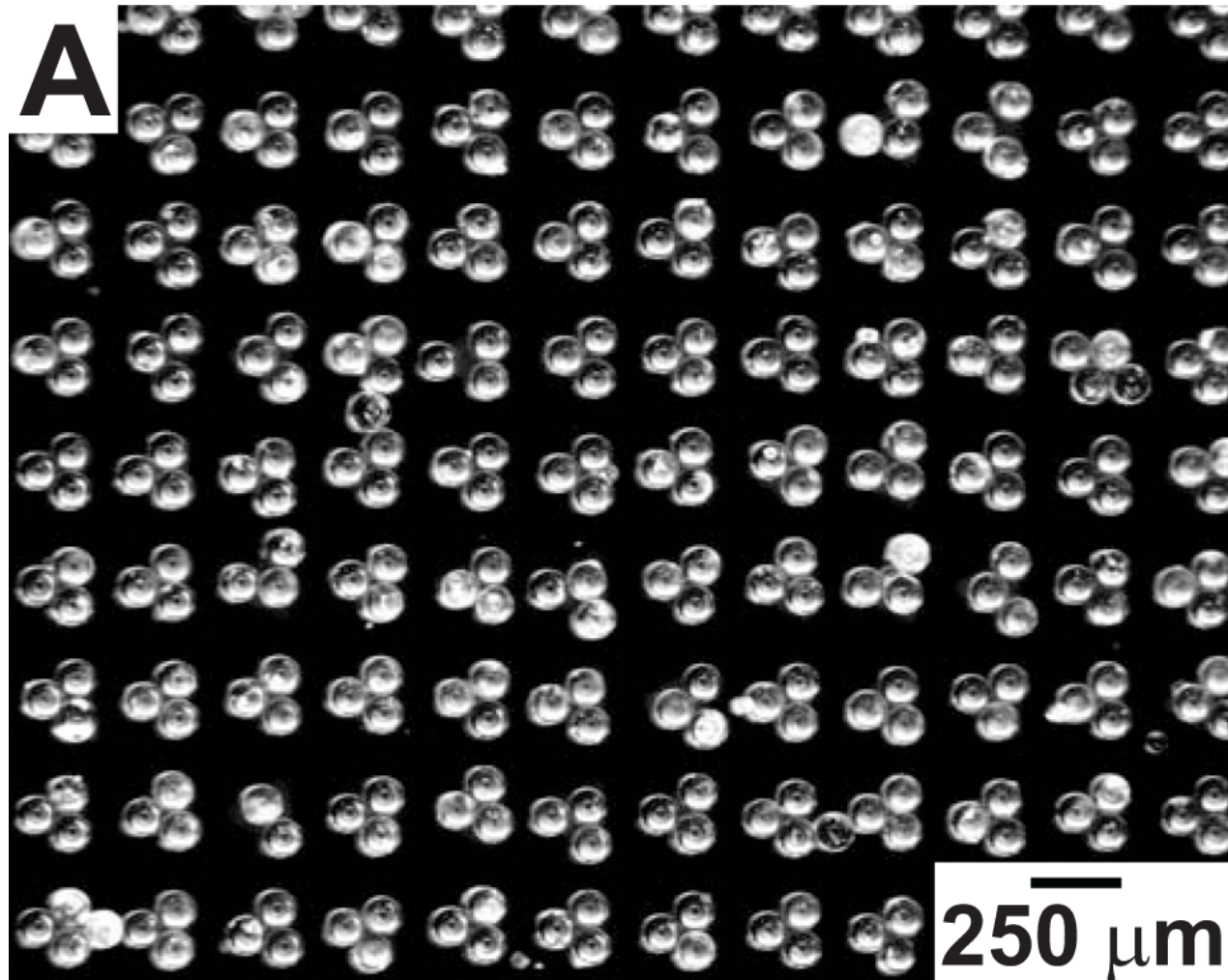


A grayscale photograph of a large lecture hall filled with students. Many students are using laptops. In the foreground, a student is seen from behind, working on a laptop. The hall is tiered, and the students are seated in rows. A network diagram with glowing nodes and connecting lines is overlaid on the top right of the image. A lecturer is standing at the front of the hall on the right side.

***“Is it possible to use in large groups?”***

***“Is it useful for big and small groups of students?”***

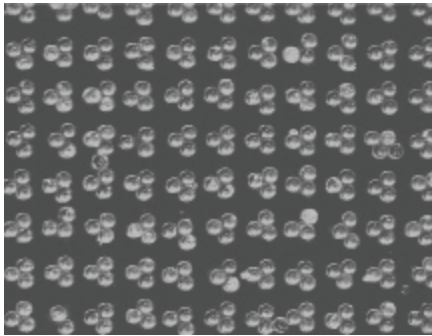
# Peer Instruction



# Peer Instruction

## Case Study B

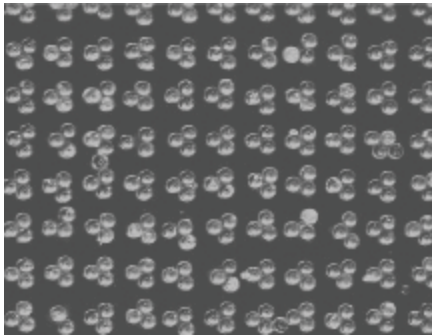
original



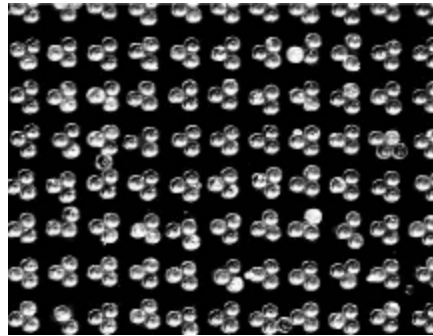
# Peer Instruction

## Case Study B

original



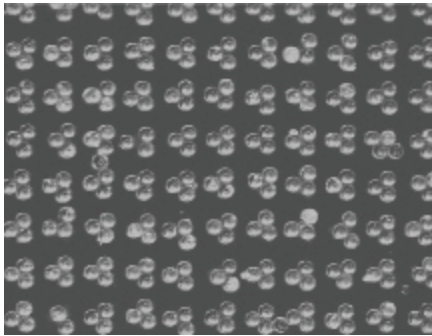
1. adjust contrast



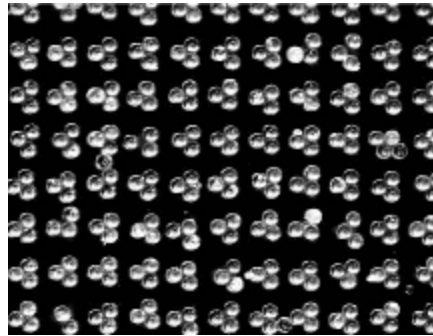
# Peer Instruction

## Case Study B

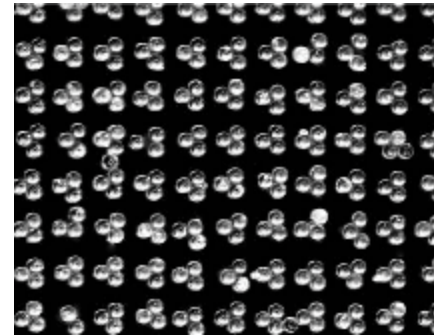
original



1. adjust contrast



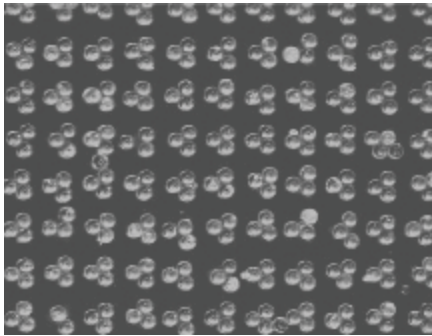
2. remove blemishes



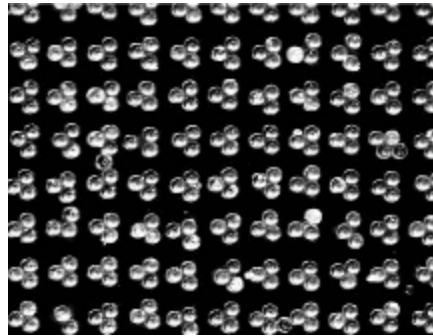
# Peer Instruction

## Case Study B

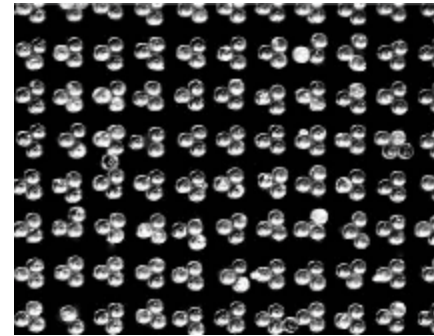
original



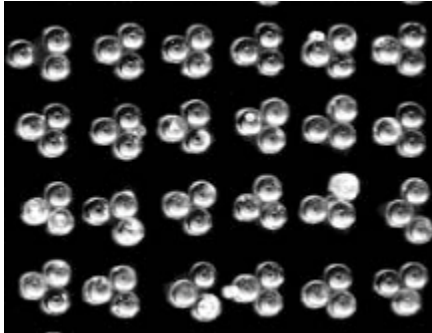
1. adjust contrast



2. remove blemishes



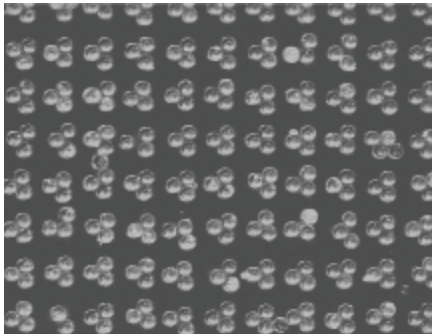
3. crop



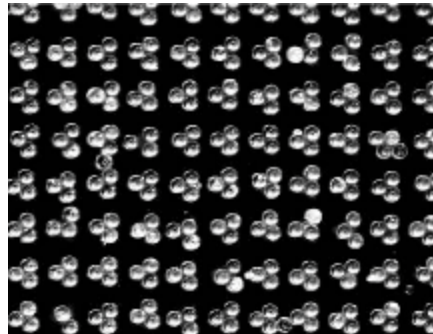
# Peer Instruction

## Case Study B

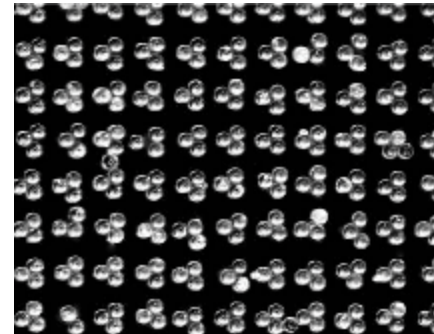
original



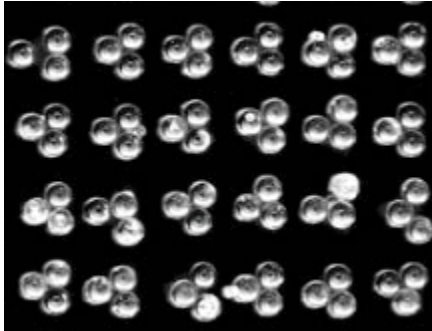
1. adjust contrast



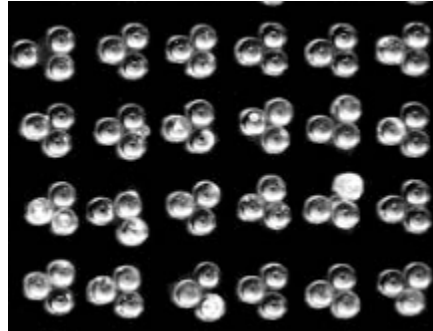
2. remove blemishes



3. crop



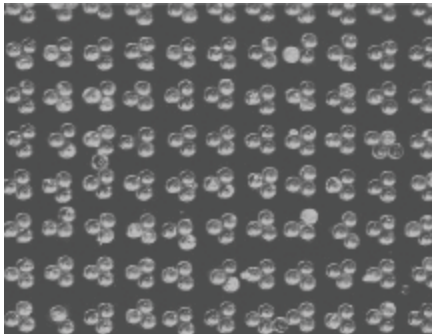
4. remove outliers



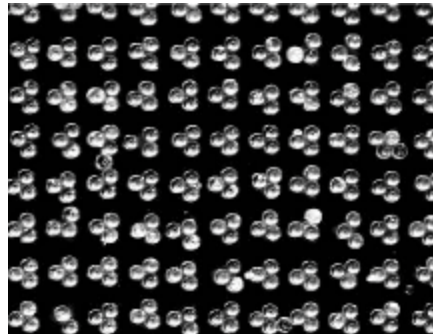


## Case Study B

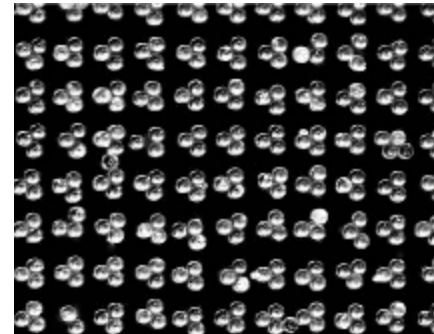
original



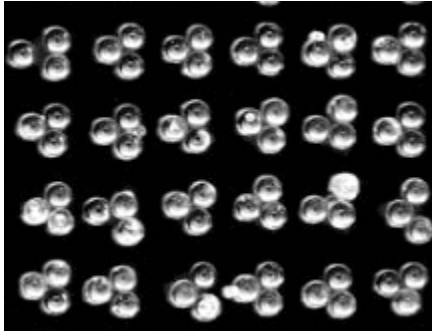
1. adjust contrast



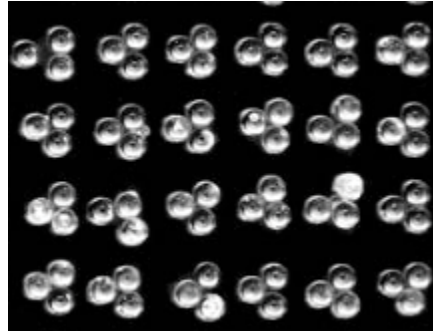
2. remove blemishes



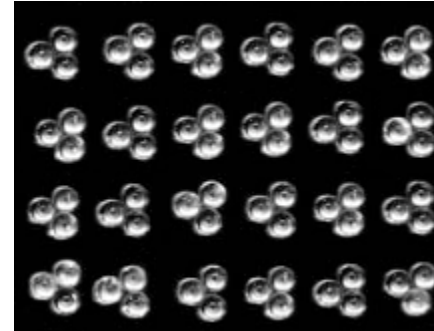
3. crop



4. remove outliers



5. reconstruct



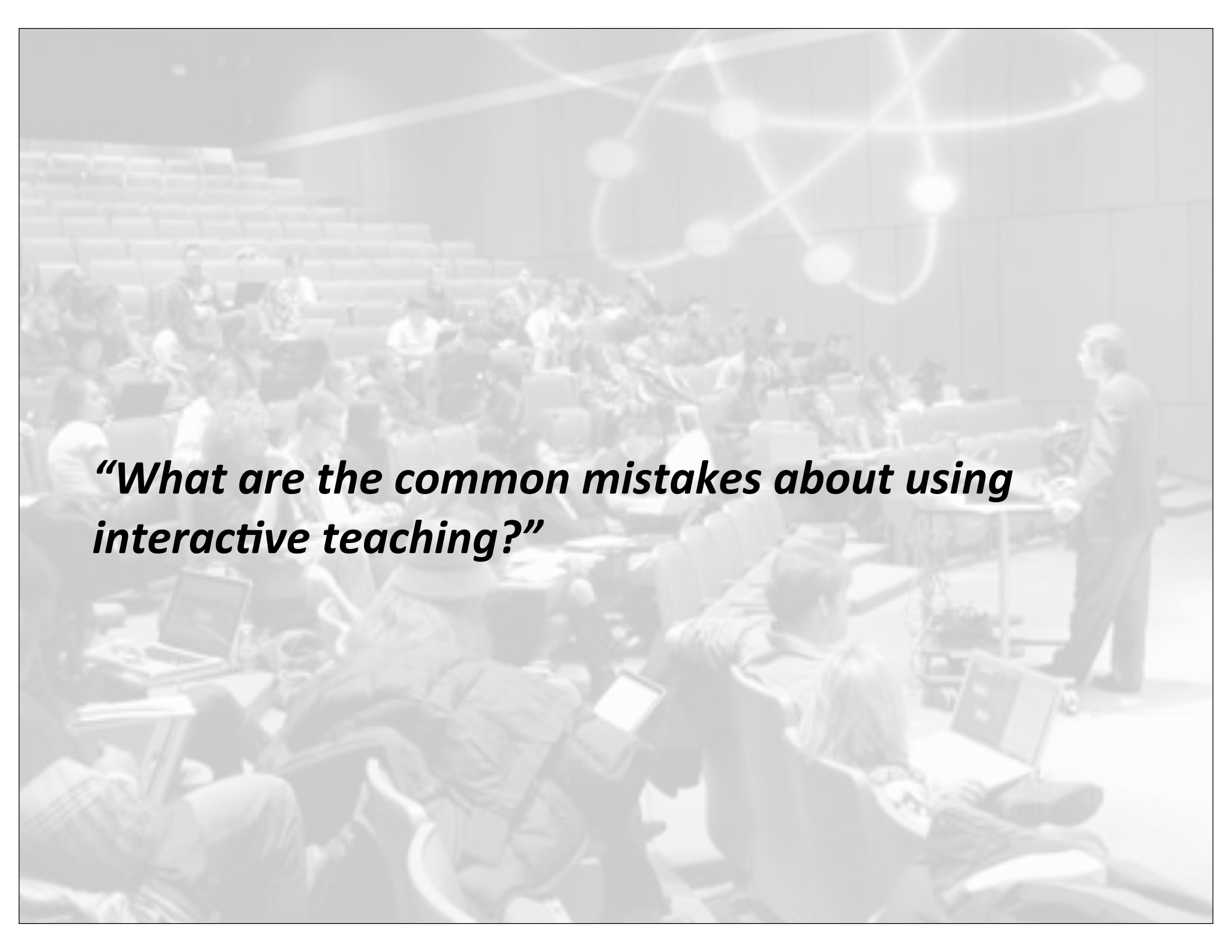


# Peer Instruction

**Let's try it!**

**At which step were acceptable standards of ethics violated?**

- 1. Optimize brightness/contrast**
- 2. Remove blemishes**
- 3. Crop on optimal area**
- 4. Remove outliers**
- 5. Reconstruct image with parts copied from other locations**



***“What are the common mistakes about using interactive teaching?”***

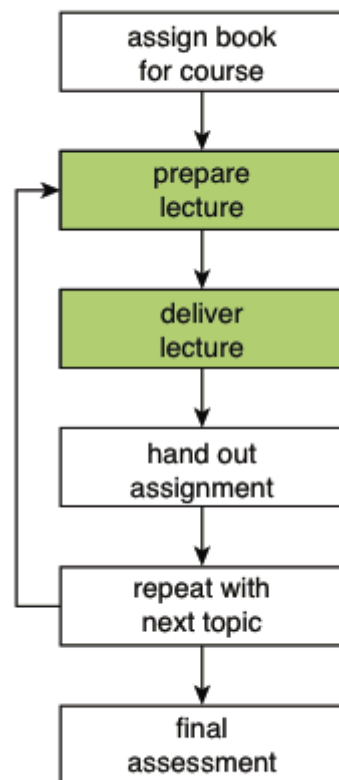
# Peer Instruction

## Common Mistakes

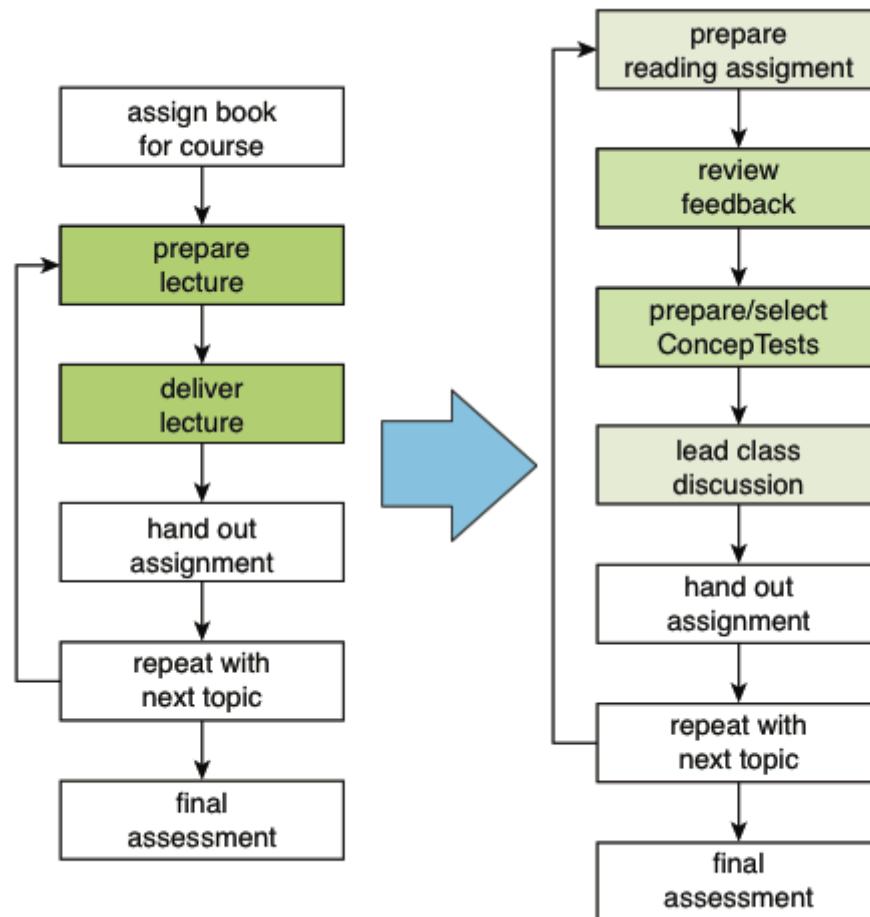
*Interactive teaching takes too much time compared to lecture.*

# Peer Instruction

Where does the effort go?



# Peer Instruction



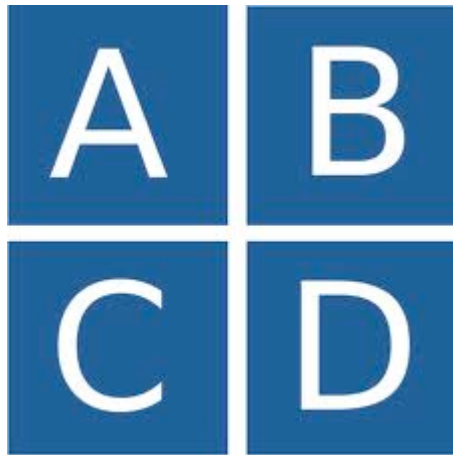
# Peer Instruction

## Common Mistakes

*I can't do Peer Instruction because I don't have clickers.*

# Peer Instruction

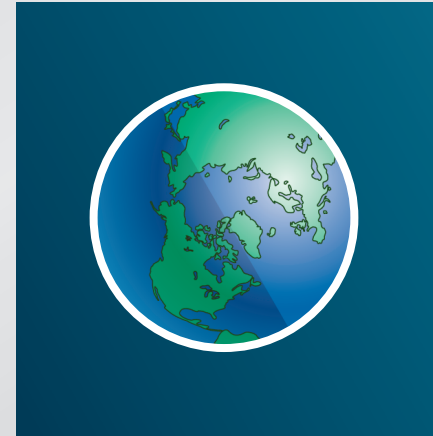
Use Flashcards



# Peer Instruction

## Setting the stage

Imagine a rope that fits snugly along the equator.





# Peer Instruction

## Let's try it!

Imagine a rope that fits snugly along the equator.

Suppose the rope is cut and 1 m of rope is inserted between the cut ends. If the rope were to maintain a circular shape, how far off the surface of the Earth would it float?



1. the width of a few atoms
2. the width of a few hairs
3. the height of a curb
4. exactly 1 m
5. more than 1 m



# Peer Instruction

## Let's try it!

Imagine a rope that fits snugly along the equator.

Suppose the rope is cut and 1 m of rope is inserted between the cut ends. If the rope were to maintain a circular shape, how far off the surface of the Earth would it float?



1. the width of a few atoms
2. the width of a few hairs
3. the height of a curb ✓
4. exactly 1 m
5. more than 1 m



# Peer Instruction

## Setting the stage

circumference at equator:


$$2\pi R_E$$

new circumference:

$$2\pi R_E + 1 \text{ m}$$

radius of circle with new circumference:

$$2\pi R = 2\pi R_E + 1 \text{ m}, \quad \text{and so} \quad R = R_E + \frac{1 \text{ m}}{2\pi}.$$

A grayscale photograph of a large lecture hall filled with students. Many students are using laptops, and the room is tiered. A glowing network diagram with nodes and connecting lines is superimposed on the upper right portion of the image. A lecturer is visible on the right side of the stage.

***“What kinds of fields or subjects is interactive teaching good for?”***

# Peer Instruction

Physics  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Astronomy  
Math  
Biology  
Philosophy



# Peer Instruction

## Types of Questions

Polling

Conceptual Understanding

Opinion or Discussion

Problem-solving

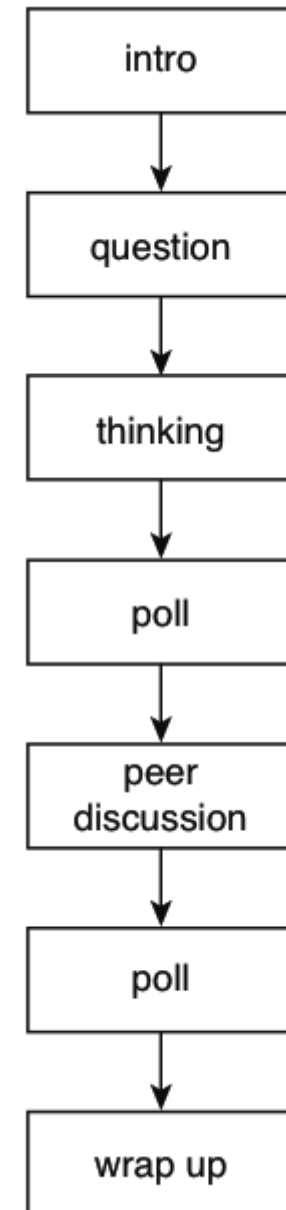
# Peer Instruction

Good questions:

- are based on common student misconceptions
- focus on a single concept
- require more than plug and chug
- are clear and concise
- are of manageable difficulty

# Peer Instruction

## Parts of a ConcepTest:






# Peer Instruction

## Parts of a ConcepTest:

**Creating ConcepTests**

Consider a rectangular metal plate with a circular hole in it.



When the plate is uniformly heated, the diameter of the hole

1. increases.
2. stays the same.
3. decreases.


**QUESTION**

# Peer Instruction

## Parts of a ConcepTest:

### Creating ConcepTests

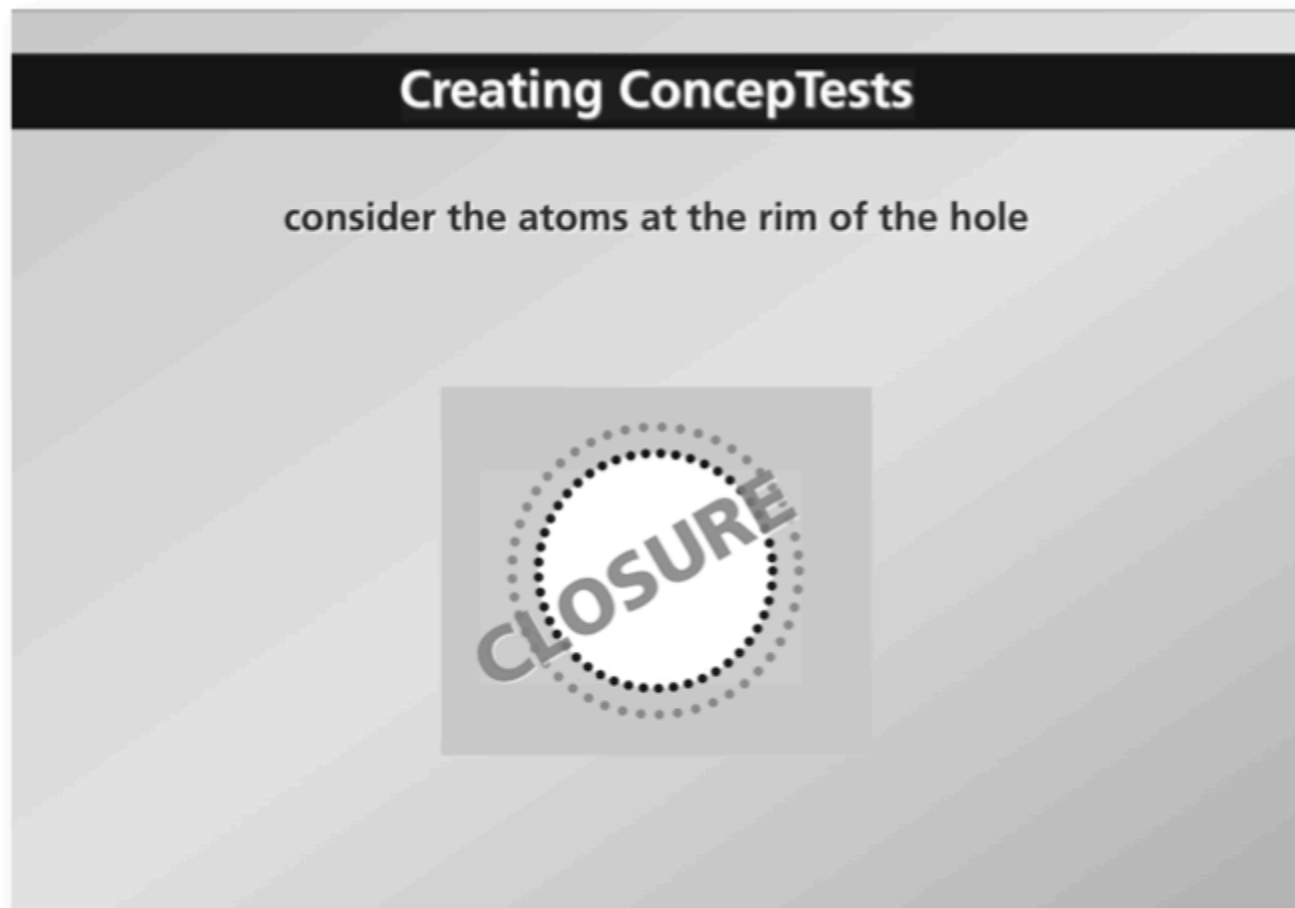
When metals heat up, they expand because all atoms get farther away from each other.

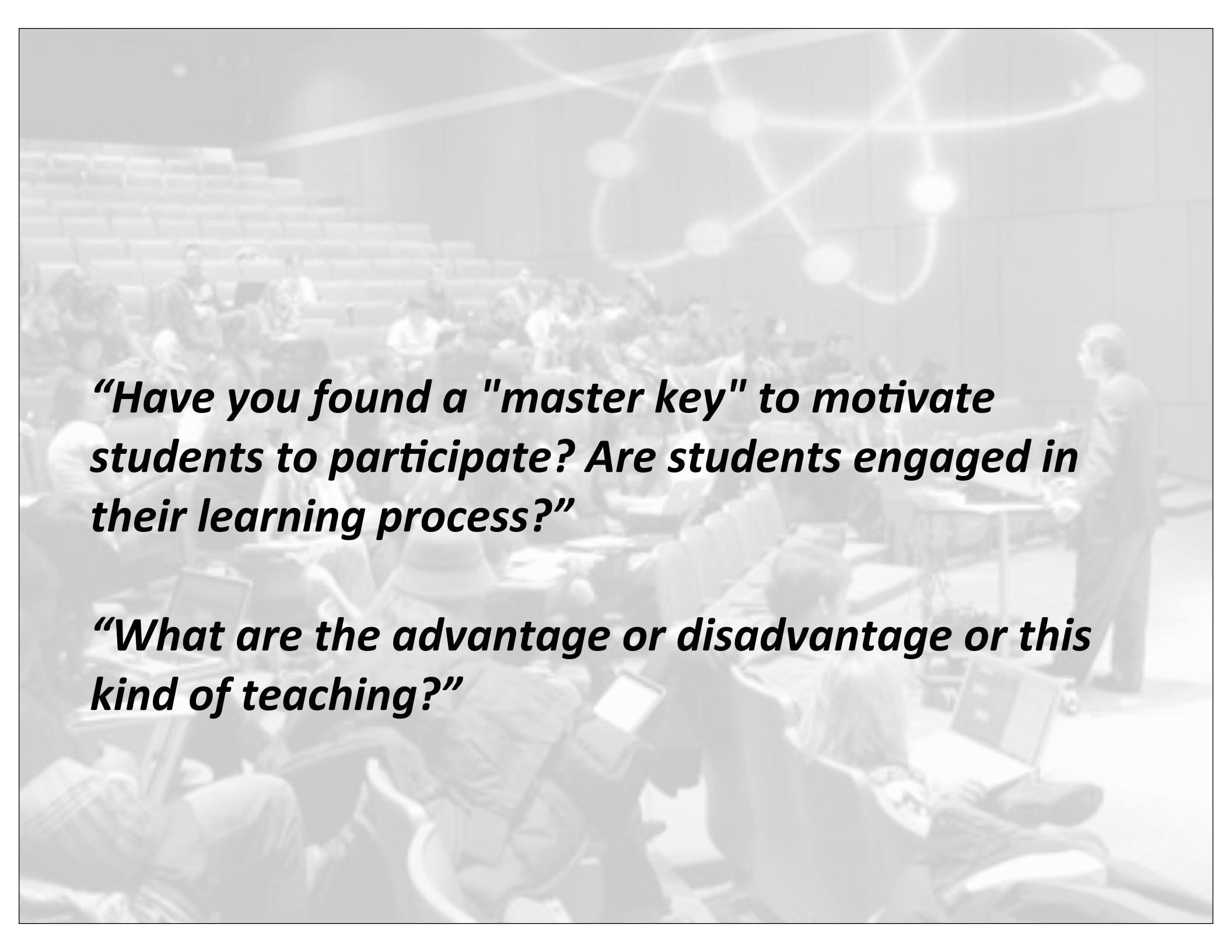


The diagram shows a 3x3 grid of black dots representing atoms in a square lattice. The word 'CONTEXT' is written diagonally across the grid in a large, semi-transparent, grey font.

# Peer Instruction

## Parts of a ConcepTest:



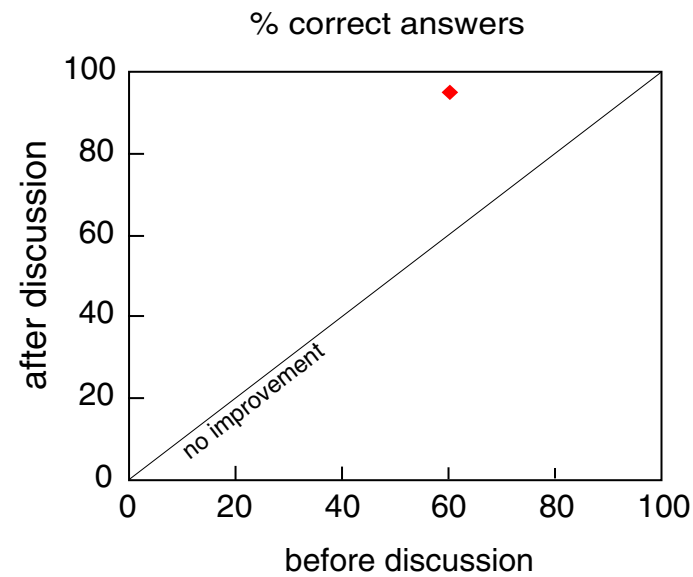


***“Have you found a “master key” to motivate students to participate? Are students engaged in their learning process?”***

***“What are the advantage or disadvantage or this kind of teaching?”***

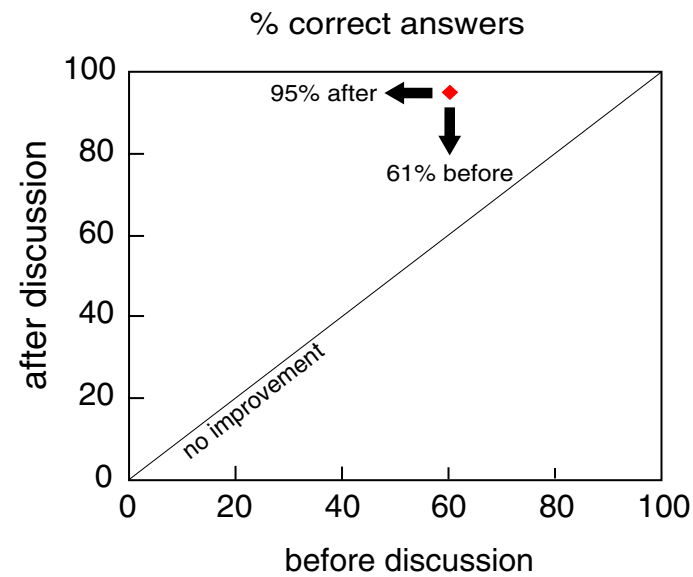
# Peer Instruction

Does it work?



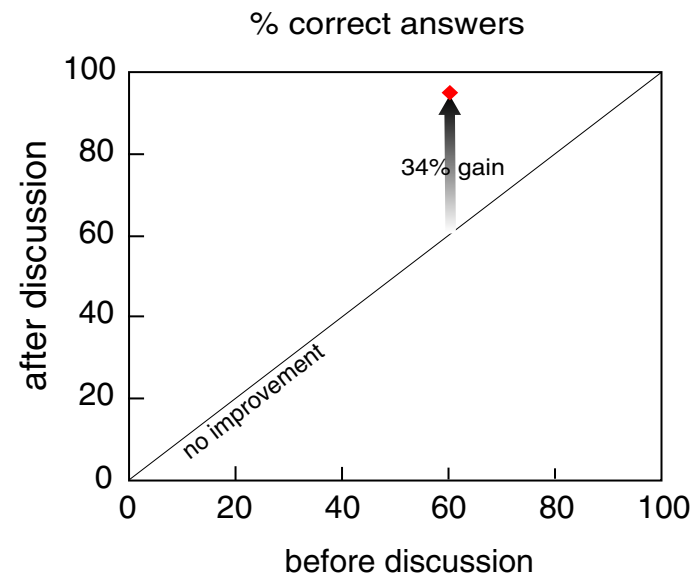
# Peer Instruction

Does it work?



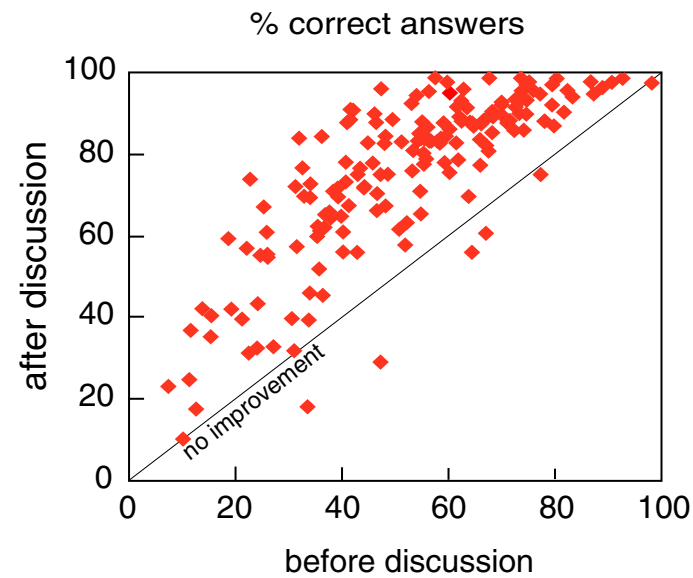
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# Acknowledgements

Eric Mazur either designed our inspired all content and each slide in this presentation.

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