

Addressing student engagement one frog at a time



BIGGEST CHALLENGE

Student Engagement
"I think student engagement is a campus-wide problem and not only applicable to this particular module."
Module Coordinator

Makeover intervention

A module in the department of Zoology simulated a frog dissection in their practical class by using an iPad application. Students were divided into groups of five, and each group was given one iPad to participate in a virtual 3D interactive simulation. Students had the opportunity to collaborate in their groups, while following a guided tutorial offered in the app. Thereafter, each student completed an online assessment.

"Critical thinking, Academic writing, Time management"
Skills the module coordinator wants students to learn.



MAJOR MAKEOVER

MODULE FACTS

Module Coordinator:
Lindi Heyns
Faculty: Natural and
Agricultural Sciences
Module: Vertebrate
Life and Evolution
(ZLGY2626)

Results
The sound graphics and interactivity kept students engaged and focused in the learning activity. Overall students found it to be a positive experience, user-friendly, and would even like to replace the real dissections with virtual dissections. Not only will this reduce financial constraints in obtaining animal species, but also addresses the ethical considerations of dissecting live frogs.

Other interventions implemented

- Electronic Flashcards to explain the terminology in the module
- Development of an interactive introduction e-guide

"I think the virtual dissection is a good alternative to the live dissection. I remember when I was a student in the same class, some students were repulsed by how gross a real dissection can be, and would lose focus of the task at hand. I also never saw any parasites, which you can see and learn about in the app. You learn differently- with descriptions, labels, and videos available in the app, it accommodates a wide range of learning styles. It also looked like the students seemed to enjoy it."
Faculty Learning Designer

T: 051 401 9846 | E: fourieL3@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za

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