

Getting started in Educational Research in the Sciences

Group Activity

Scenario 2

You are module manager for a first-year 'Practicals' module. The introductory module consists of 11 laboratory classes which allows students to practise using equipment and different techniques. The course illustrates theoretical knowledge and aims to consolidate learning and develop student's report writing, data presentation and processing skills. As part of your responsibilities you are allocated 6 of these 3hr practical classes. Previously students have been expected to write an individual report for each of the practical classes on the course. However, the school has decided to move over to a common first year and so student numbers have jumped from 80 to 190, more than doubling your potential marking load. You've heard good reports about peer assessment – that it not only promotes student learning but can also save you time. Therefore you decide to implement peer assessment of the laboratory reports. How would you manage the change so that you could get a publishable paper to help convince your sceptical colleges that this change has been beneficial to student learning?

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