Implementing a Digital Sharing Space in Online Studio Coursework in The Field of Landscape Architecture

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UtahState University®
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE &
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Overview

Online Education in Design Fields

Need for Social Interaction

Social constructivism
Learning is collaborative

Online Education
Leads to feeling isolated

Studio learning
Critique, collaboration

Integration of interactive treatments into online education can be effective

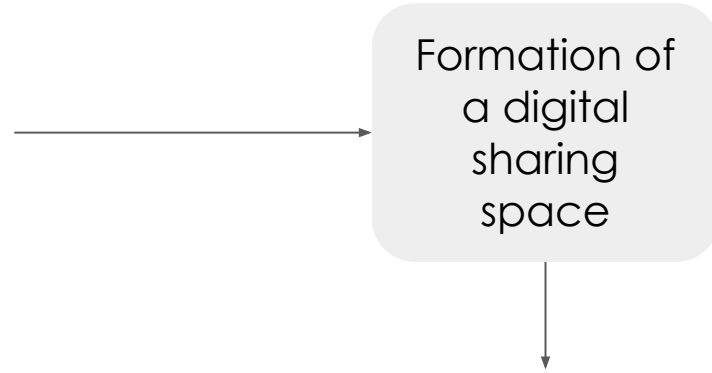Observe others work

Reach out to others

Create a digital place to share work

# Methods

Research Questions

How can social interaction, specifically focused on sharing and learning from peer-to-peer process-based work, be facilitated in an online environment in landscape architecture?

Formation of a digital sharing space

Will the implementation of a dedicated digital sharing space with specific suggestions and parameters for frequent sharing enhance student performance and their satisfaction with the learning experience?

Utilizing Technology
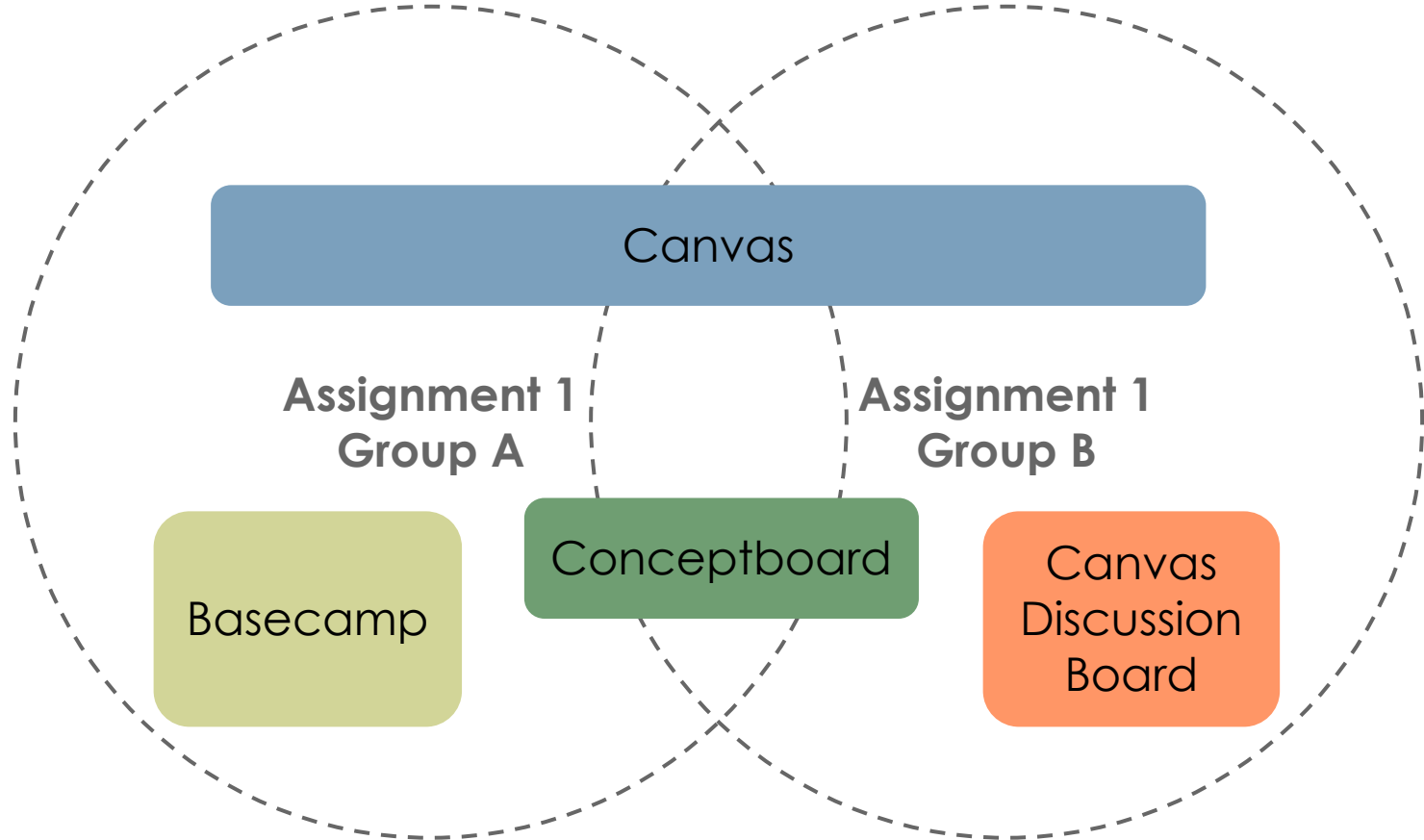## *Formation of Digital Sharing Space*
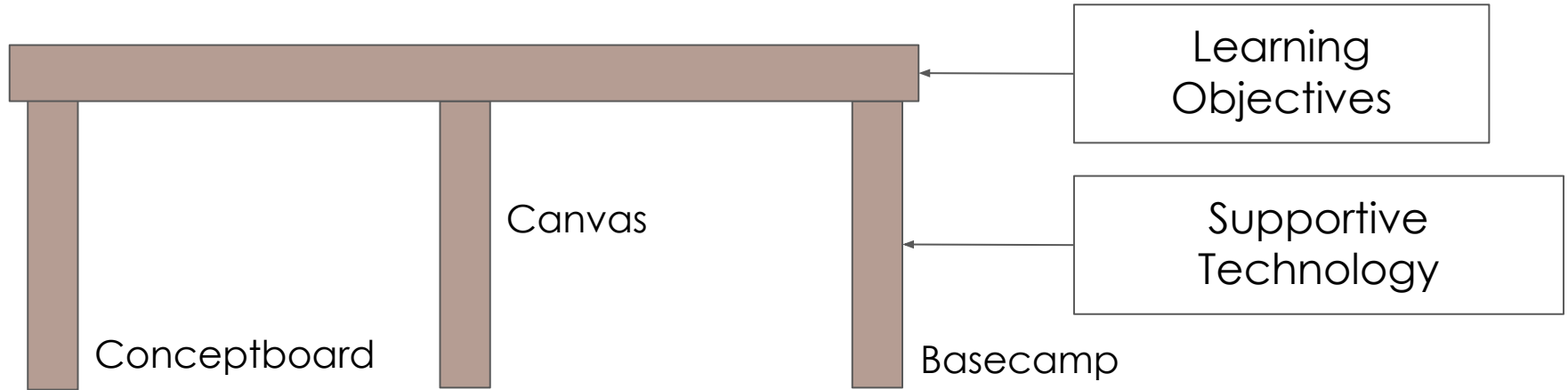
Study Basics

Undergraduate class, LAEP 2700, offered online with 52 enrolled students
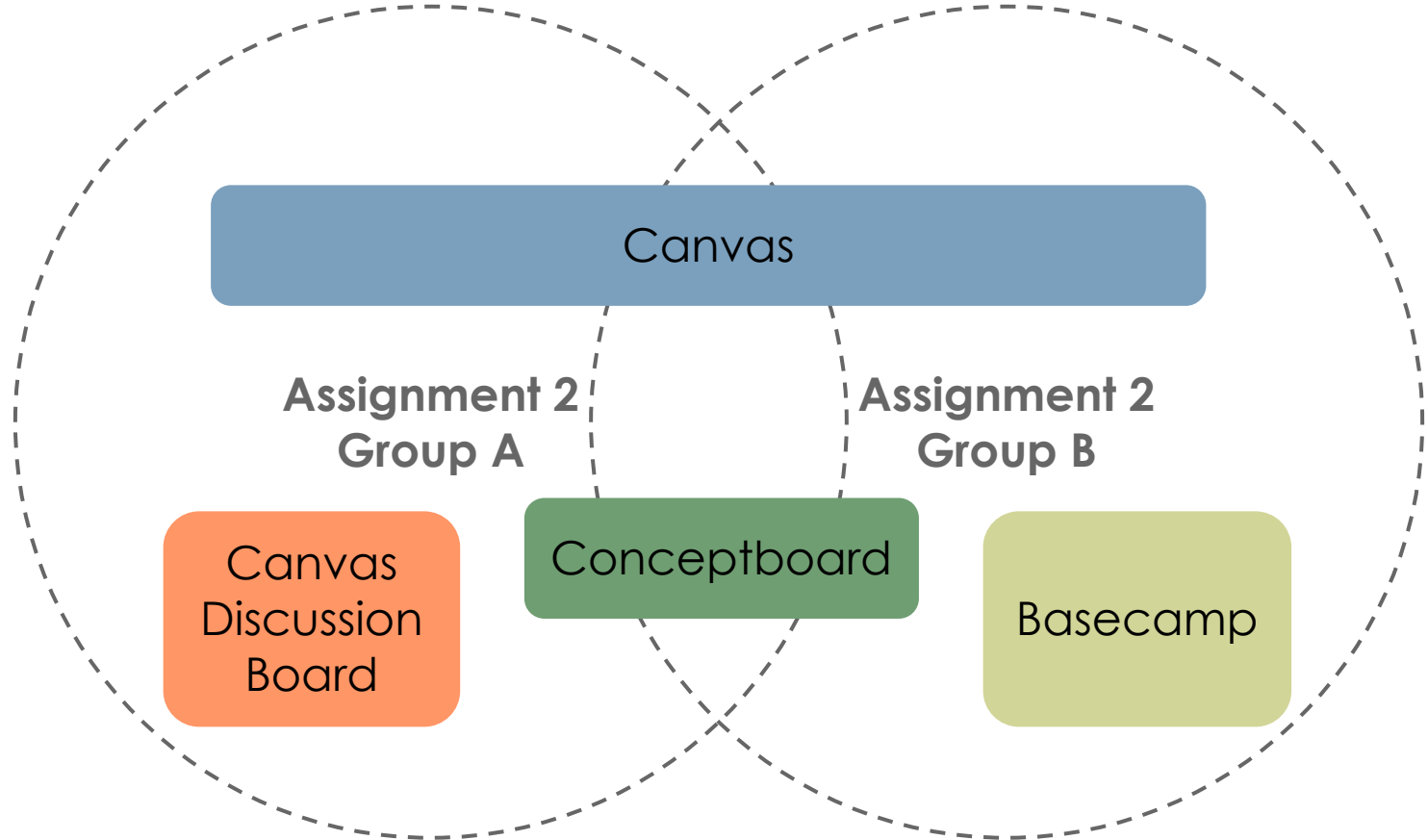
Collected data over the course of two similar assignments

Assignments:

- 1-2 weeks
- 200 points
- Individual
- Produced a poster
- Asked to interact with peers as part of the assignment

Implementation
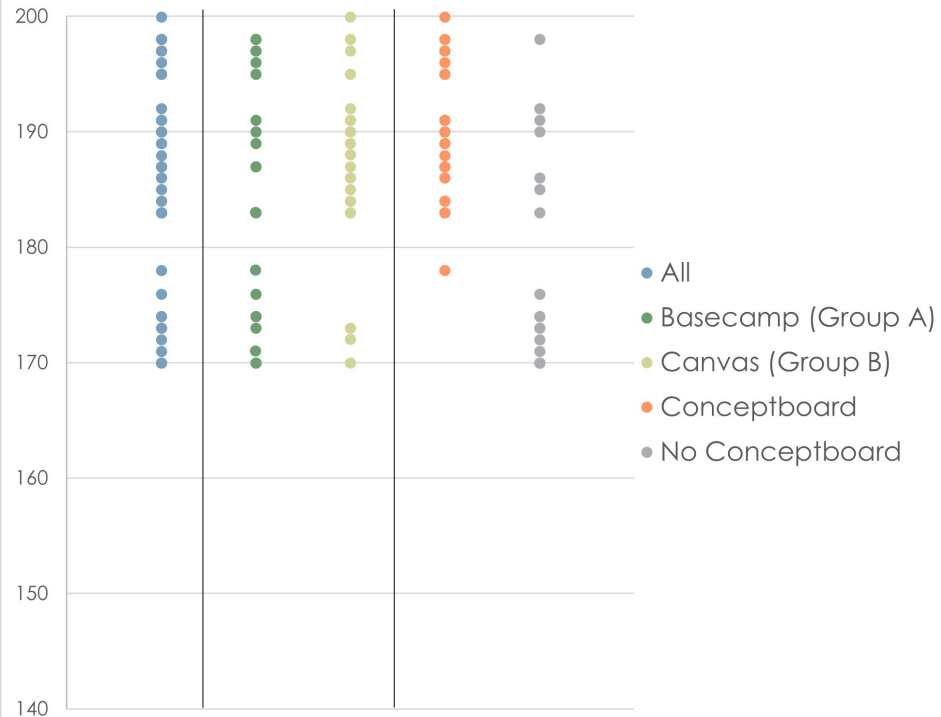
Implementation

Results

Information Gathered

- Content from platforms used including Canvas, Conceptboard, and Basecamp
- Grades of students' assignments
- Survey sent to students after each assignment

Amount of Interaction
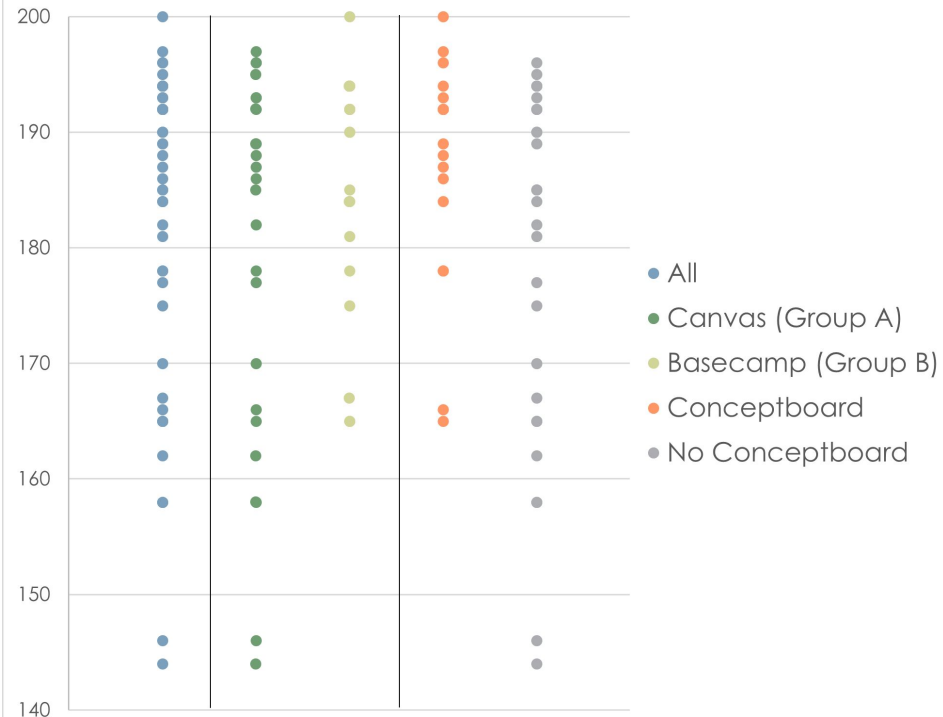
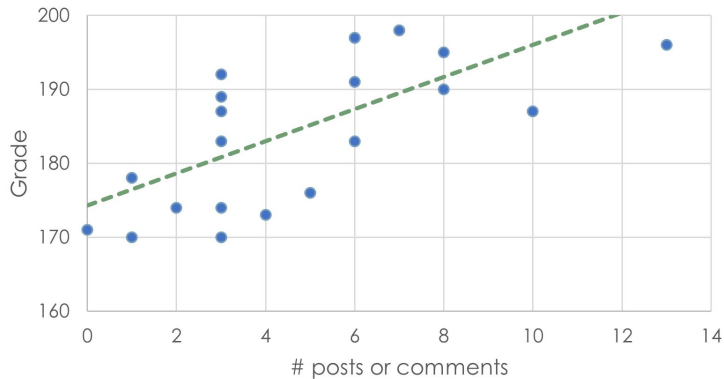|	Assignment 1 Group A (Basecamp)	Assignment 1 Group B (Canvas)	Assignment 2 Group A (Canvas)	Assignment 2 Group B (Basecamp)
# Individual Comments	93	82	64	100
Conceptboard Participants	11	17	10	8
Total # Participants*	22	25	25	21
Mean # comments and posts	5	5.13	3	5.14
Mean grade	184	187	179	186

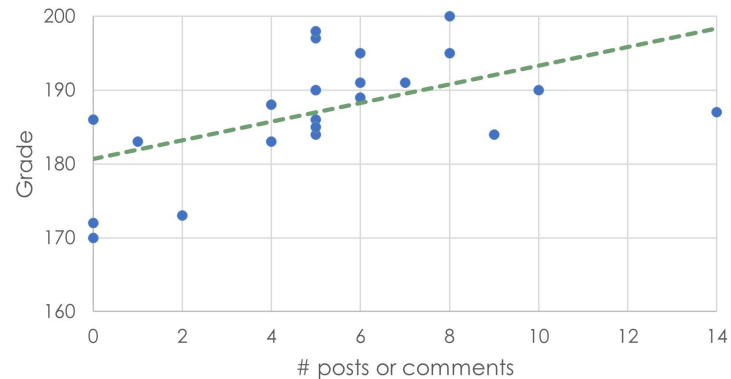# Grade Distribution

- Statistical significance for students using Conceptboard
- No significance between Canvas and Basecamp

Correlation of Posts to Grades
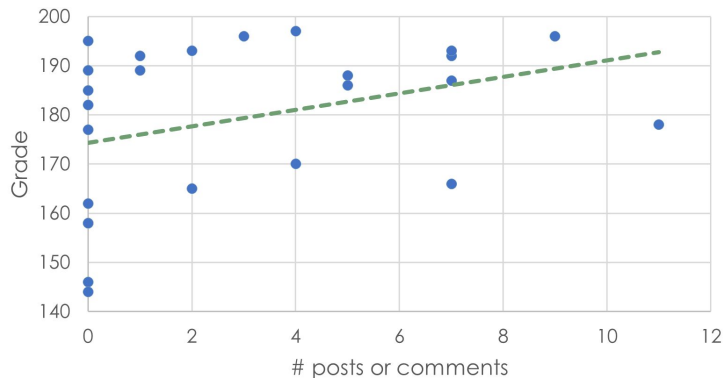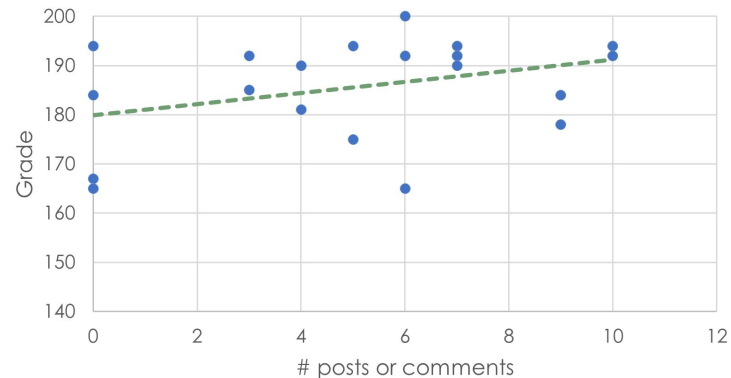
Type of Comment	Example
Ask for feedback	*This is my work in progress! Any layout suggestions? (with attachment of work)*
Offer Critique	*You've really done some research. It looks awesome. Lots of nice imagery and detail.*
Ask a question	*Has anyone considered any sort of matrix or bubble diagrams to include, or ways to do that online?*
Answer a question	*Sometimes microsoft word or excel has graphs or charts you can transfer over to other files, that could potentially be helpful.*
Share a resource	*Hey guys! So alltrails.com has a huge list and maps of trails, it's basically google maps but for hiking trails. Hope that's helpful for people on the assignment.*
Progress update	*Working on finishing up my project and understanding the difference between a site analysis and concept plan especially in a place I am unfamiliar with. I am using other work on Concept board to get ideas and help improve my own work.*
Say thank you	*This is extremely helpful for the project! Thanks so much!*
Echo	*I am also going to do a similar thing. I agree that is the best way to better insight.*

Example comments
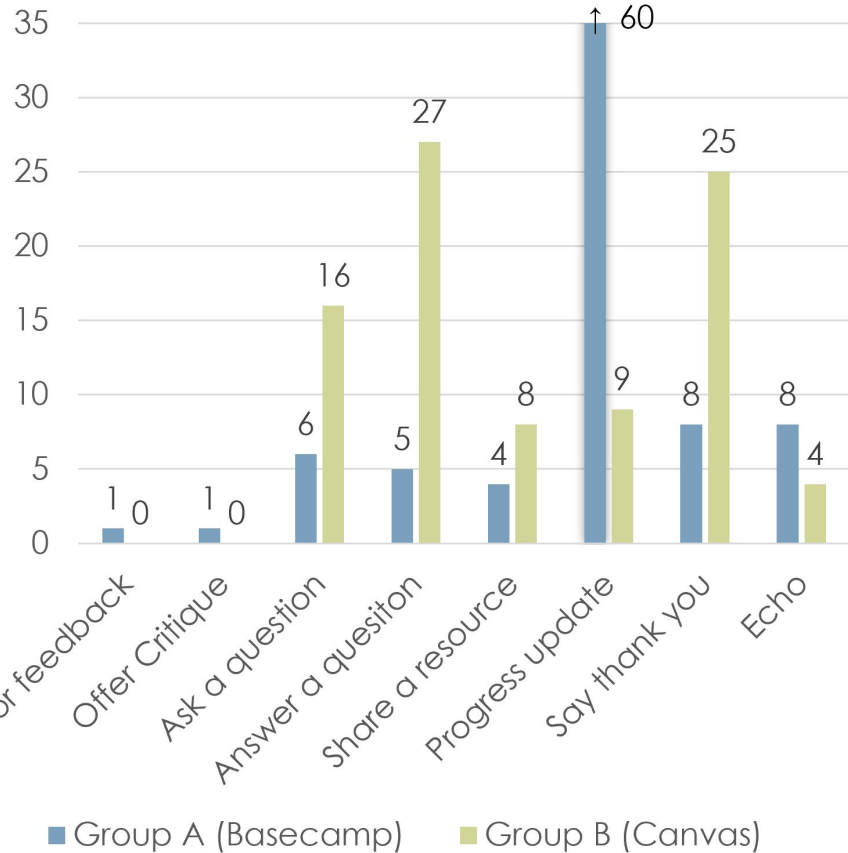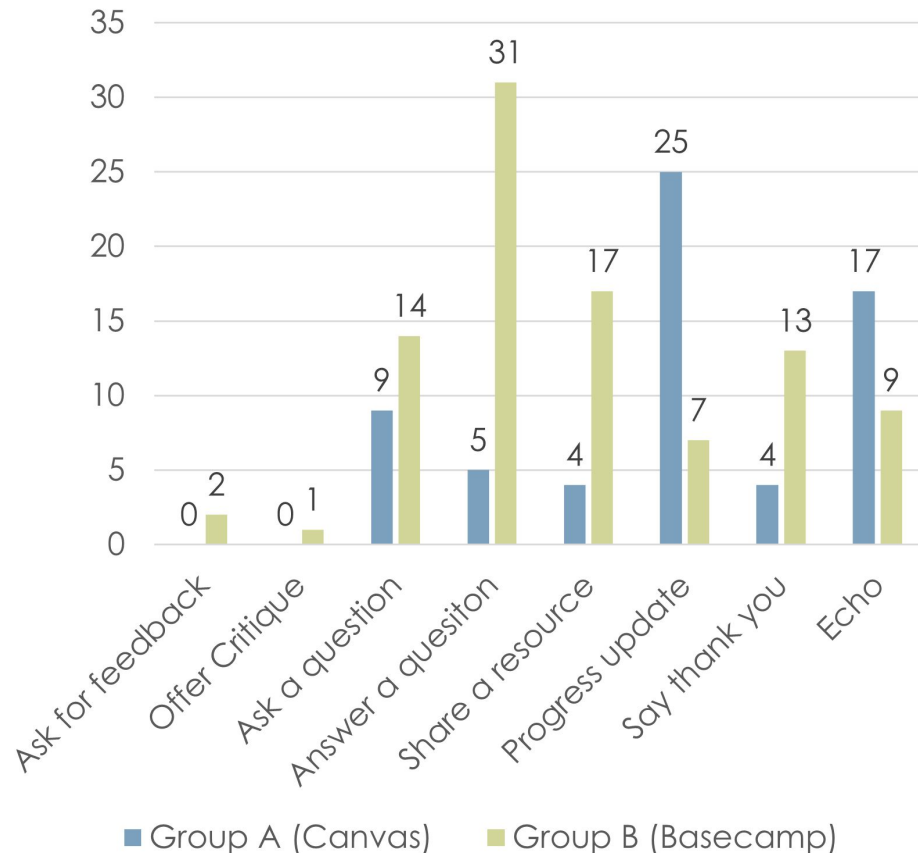
Discussion Board Content Analysis

Student Feedback

How did using different technologies to interact with others influence this project?

Obtained ideas or inspiration (11)

Enjoyed having a group (3)

Preferred in-person interaction (5)

No use (2)

Ask questions (3)

Techincal issues (2)

Disliked requred interation (3)

Way to reach out to others (3)

Wanted consistency (6)

Benefited from critiques (4)

Liked visual interaction (3)

Benefited from seeing others' work (10)
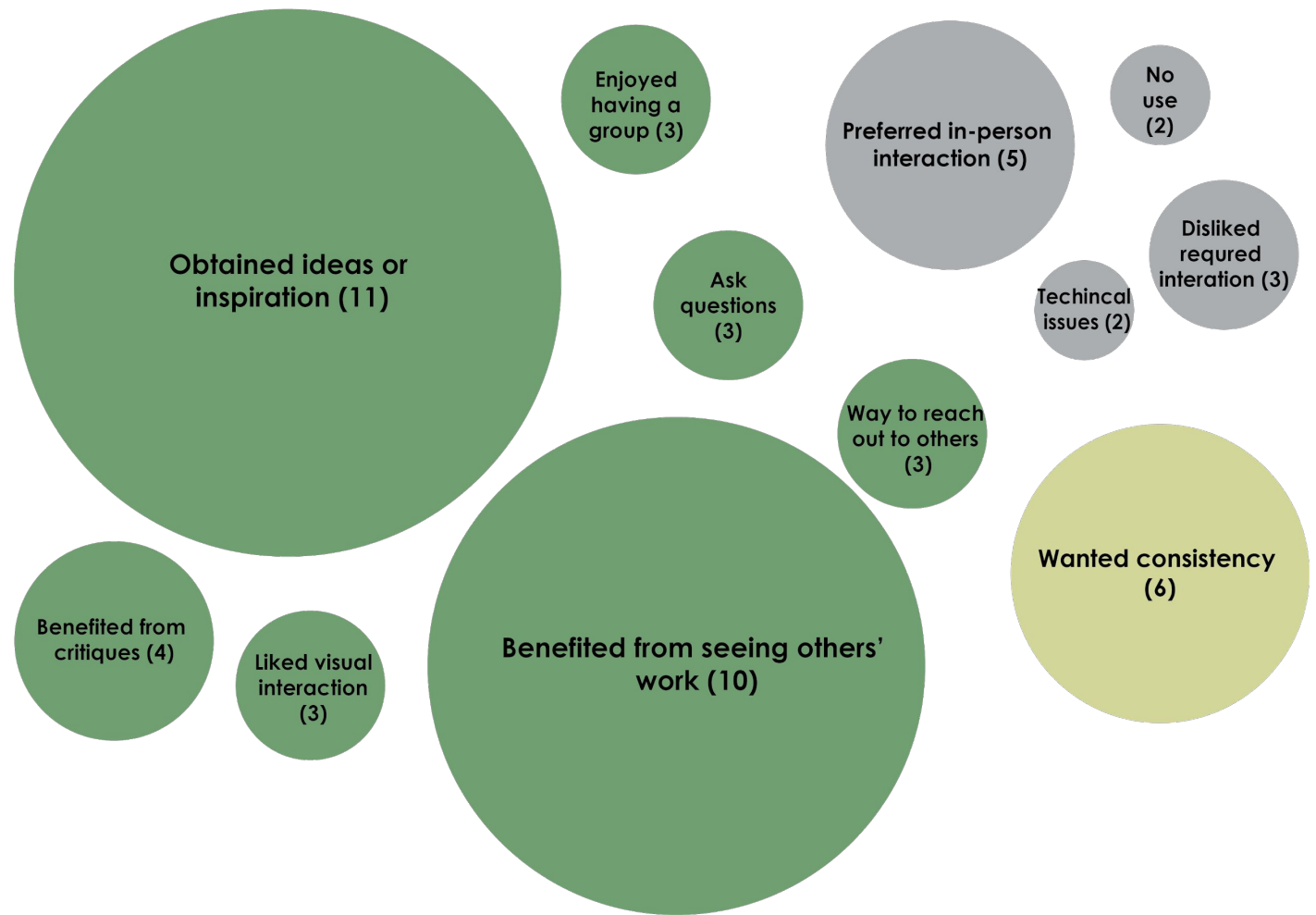
How often did you interact with other class members during the course of this project?

Legend: ■ A little ■ None at all ■ A moderate amount ■ A lot ■ A great deal

	A little	None at all	A moderate amount	A lot	A great deal
All responses	44	5	42	7	2
Assignment 1 Basecamp (Group A)	41		47	6	6
Assignment 1 Canvas (Group B)	50	8	42		
Assignment 2 Canvas (Group A)	47	13	20	20	
Assignment 2 Basecamp (Group B)	40		60		
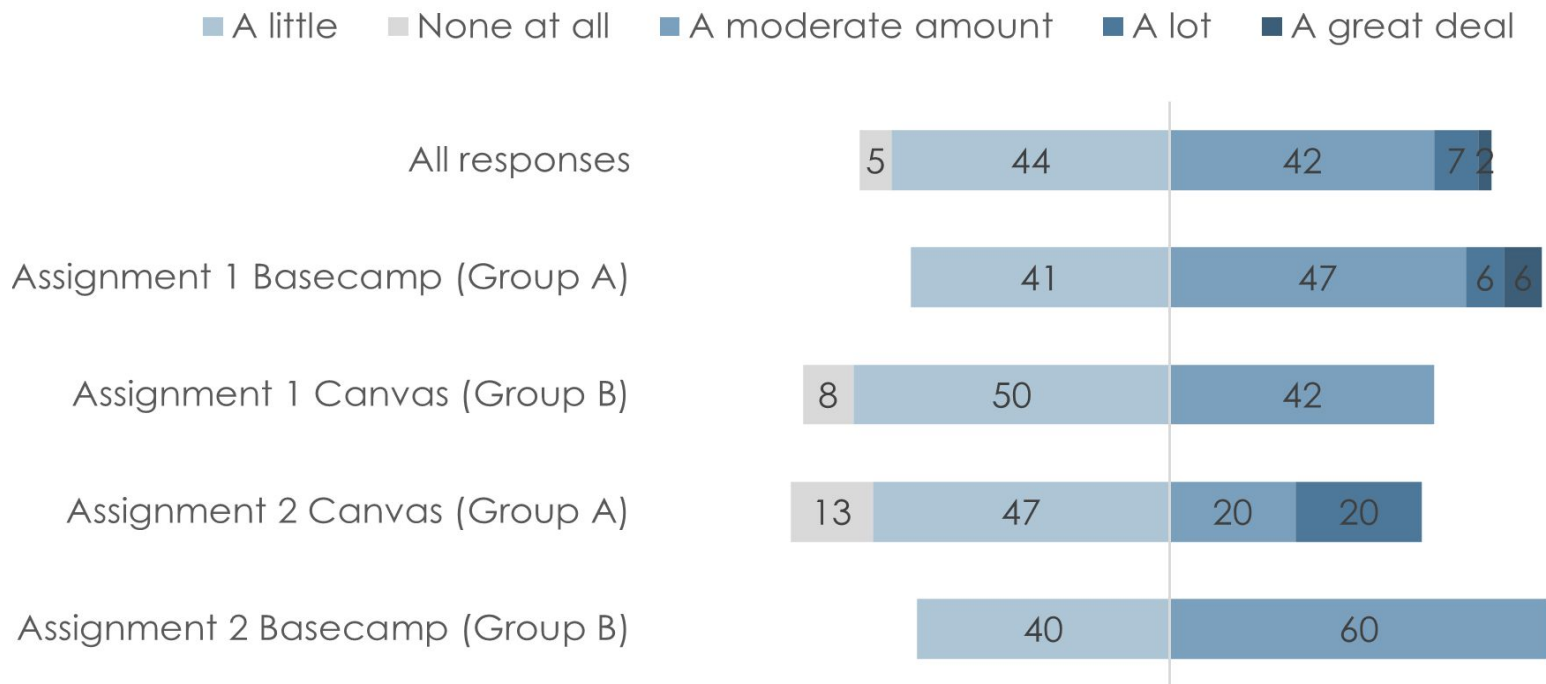
Survey Results

Where you aware of what other class members were working on during this project?

■ Slightly aware ■ Not at all aware ■ Moderately aware ■ Very aware ■ Extremly aware

All responses	5	37	44	12 2
Assignment 1 Basecamp (Group A)		35	53	12
Assignment 1 Canvas (Group B)	17	42	42	
Assignment 2 Canvas (Group A)	7	26	40	27
Assignment 2 Basecamp (Group B)		47	40	7 7
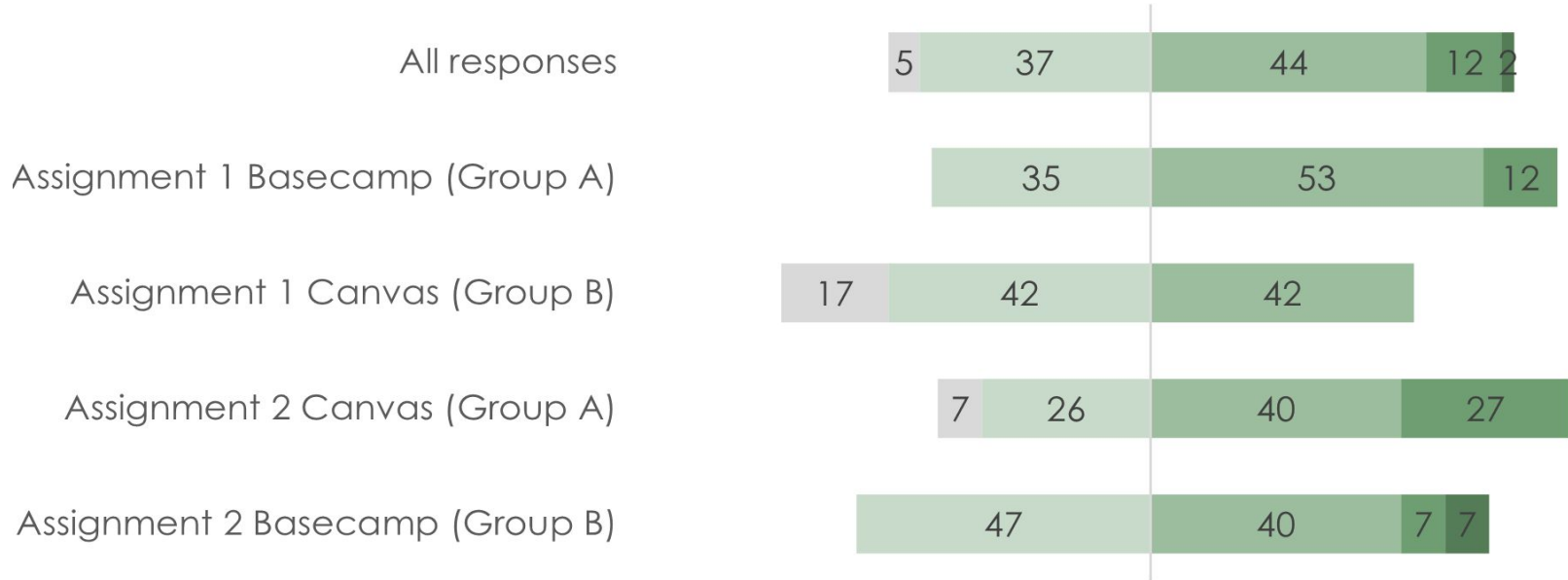
Survey Results

How helpful was interacting with other class members in completing this project?

Legend: Slightly helpful ▪ Not at all helpful ▪ Moderately helpful ▪ Very helpful ▪ Extremly helpful

All responses: 7, 31, 27, 19, 17
Assignment 1 Basecamp (Group A): 6, 35, 18, 24, 18
Assignment 1 Canvas (Group B): 17, 17, 33, 8, 25
Assignment 2 Canvas (Group A): 7, 33, 33, 20, 7
Assignment 7 Basecamp (Group B): 33, 27, 20, 20
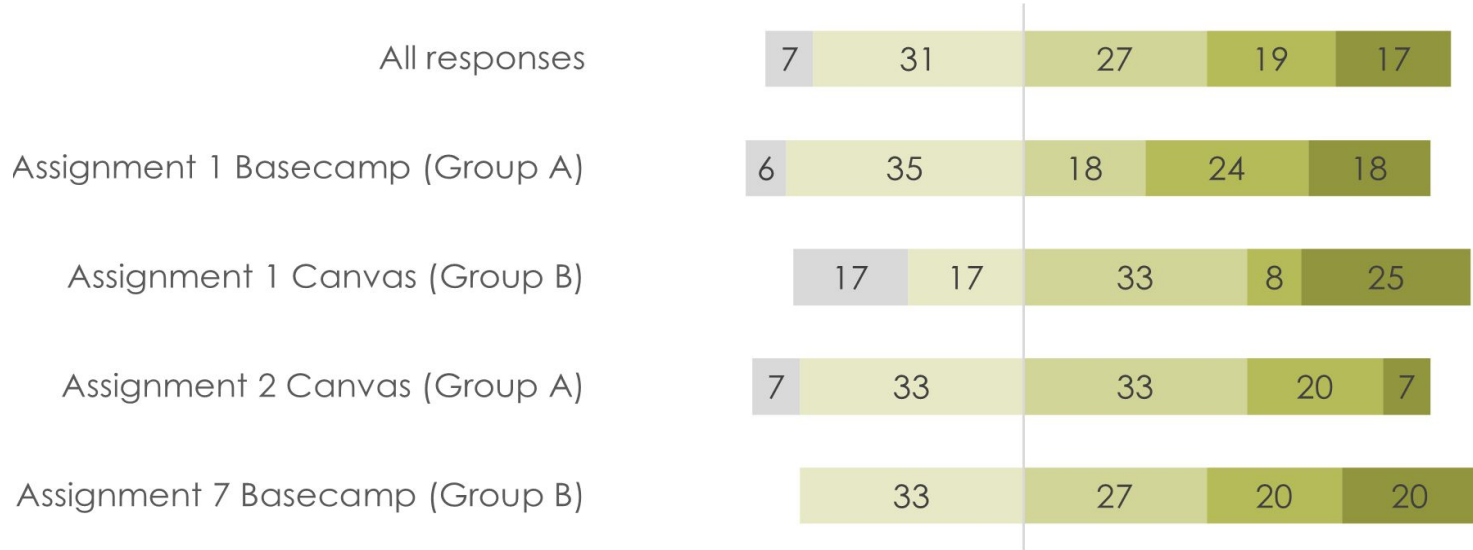
Survey Results

Did interacting with others improve your learning experience?

A little   None at all   A moderate amount   A lot   A great deal

	None at all	A little	A moderate amount	A lot	A great deal
All responses	7	37	24	22	10
Assignment 1 Basecamp (Group A)	18	35	18	18	12
Assignment 1 Canvas (Group B)	8	33	17	25	17
Assignment 2 Canvas (Group A)		47	27	27	
Assignment 2 Basecamp (Group B)		33	33	20	13
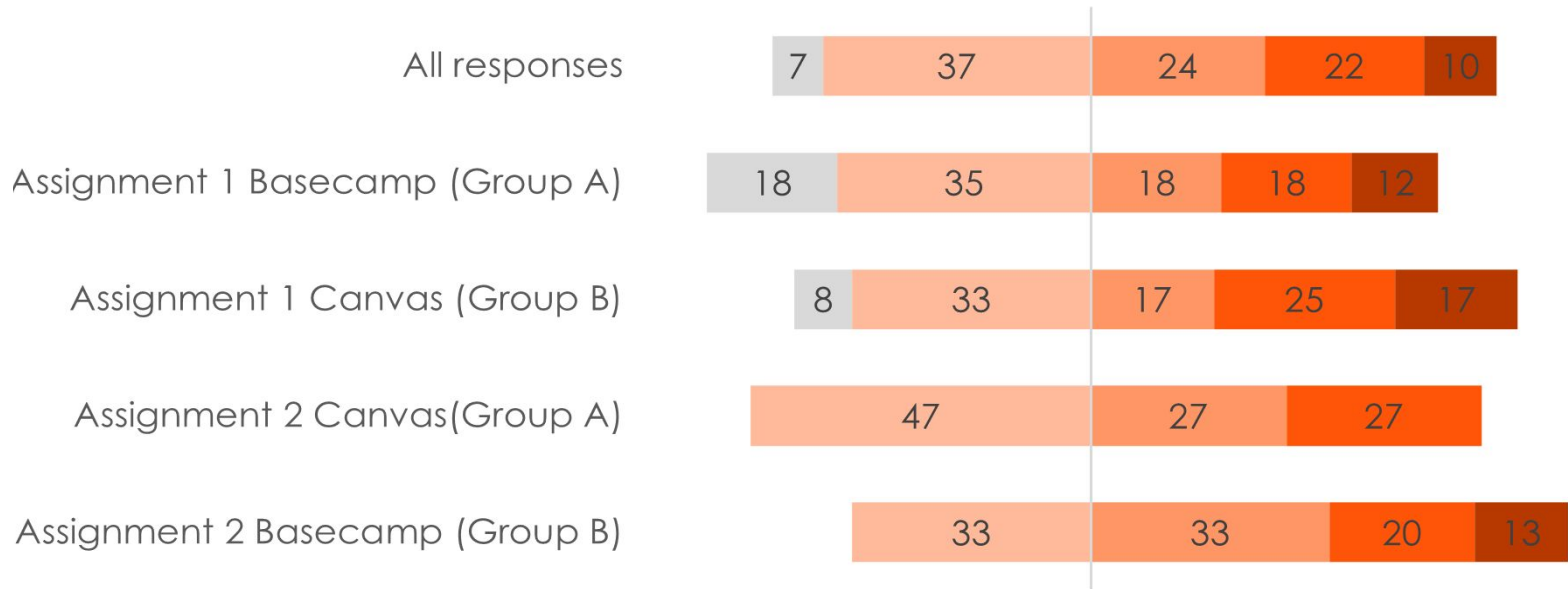
Survey Results

Conclusions

Discussion

How can social interaction, specifically focused on sharing and learning from peer-to-peer process-based work, be facilitated in an online environment in landscape architecture?

- Create a place to share visual work and a place to reach out to others
- Provide support to guide interactions
- Have consistency from the course onset
- Platforms matters less than the expectation

Discussion

Will the implementation of a dedicated digital sharing space with specific suggestions and parameters for frequent sharing enhance student performance and their satisfaction with the learning experience?

- Most benefit occurred when students shared visual work and engaged in critique
- Students did find interaction helpful with their assignments

Social interaction and work sharing are important in online coursework and can be facilitated through creating digital sharing spaces.

More Info

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References

https://tinyurl.com/3f77nzvn