

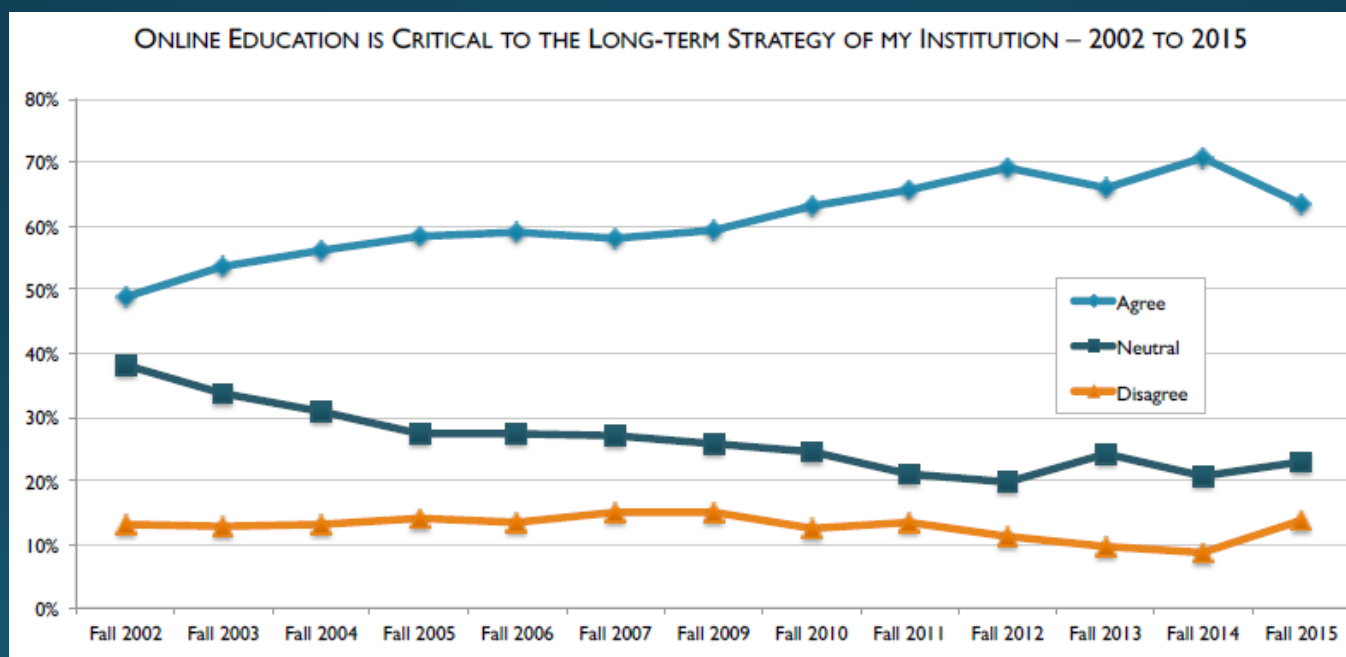
Enhancement of Student Engagement and Interaction in Online Courses through Implementation of a Scholar-ignite Program

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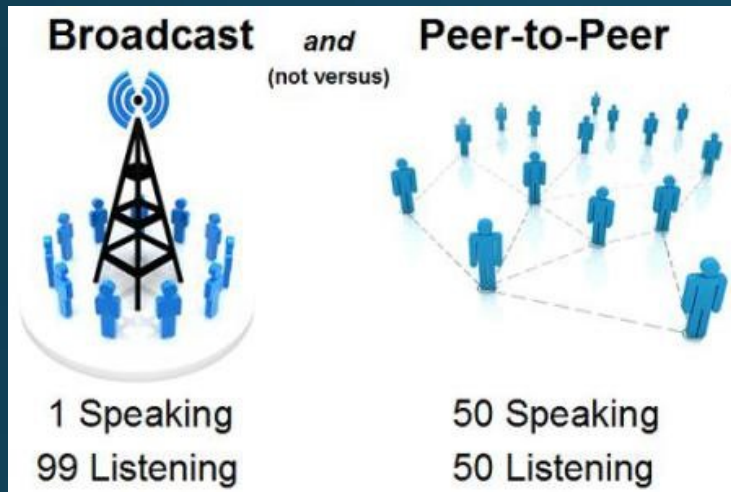
Introduction

- Among 2,800 colleges and university surveyed by the Babson Survey Research Group (2016):
 - 63% report that online learning is critical to their long-term strategy



- 71% of academic leaders believe online education is the same or superior to face-to-face instruction

Challenge



- Peer-to-peer learning activities contribute to a feeling of community and connectedness (Ouzts, 2006; Rovai, 2002).
- Social connectedness enhances student satisfaction and learning (Brett and Nagra, 2005).
- How do we implement this learning strategy in an online environment?

Ignite Talks

- In 2006 Bradly Forrest and Bre Petis started Ignite Talks in Seattle, WA
 - Fast-paced talks where presenters were time- and content-limited
 - Generate awareness, stimulate thought, & inspire peers
- American Society for Horticultural Science host an annual Scholar's Ignite Competition
 - Graduate students
 - 1 slide & 3 minutes



Scholar's Ignite Online

- Objectives:

- Develop a Scholar's Ignite Online assignment where each student acts as the instructor with 1 slide & 3 minutes to present
- Create instructional "how-to" videos to share with students and faculty
- Assess student's perceptions of the assignment and its impact on learning

- Courses:

- Plant Science Major/Dept. of Env. Hort.
- ORH4256: Nutritional Management (25 students)
- ORH4236: Ornamental Landscape Management (19 students)

Scholar's Ignite Online

- Assignment details:
 - List of topics
 - Instructional videos
 - Students expected to create & upload presentations
 - Grades to be assessed by peers using a 5-criteria rubric:
 - Communication style
 - Comprehension
 - Inspiration
 - Impact
 - Content
- Survey:
 - Rate helpfulness of instructional videos & rubric
 - Opinion on usefulness of assignment components to learning the subject matter
 - Improvement in engagement and interaction with classmates and the instructor
 - Suggestions for improvement

“The ability to motivate employees can be the difference between success or failure as a leader.”

- Gary Grigg

Five ways to motivate people:



Enjoyment of
the job



Tangible
incentives



Personal
achievement



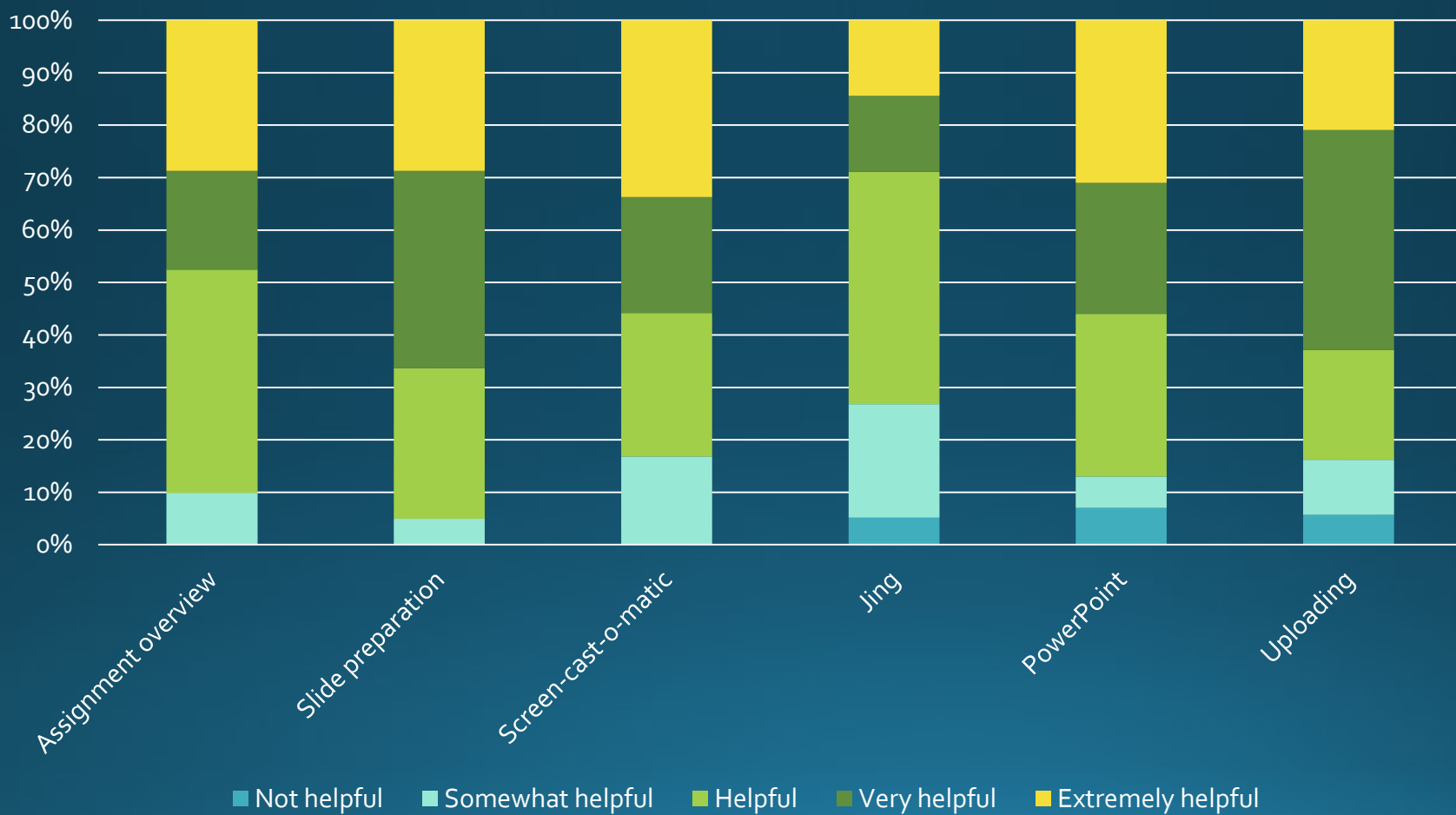
Goal
internalization



Desire for
reputation

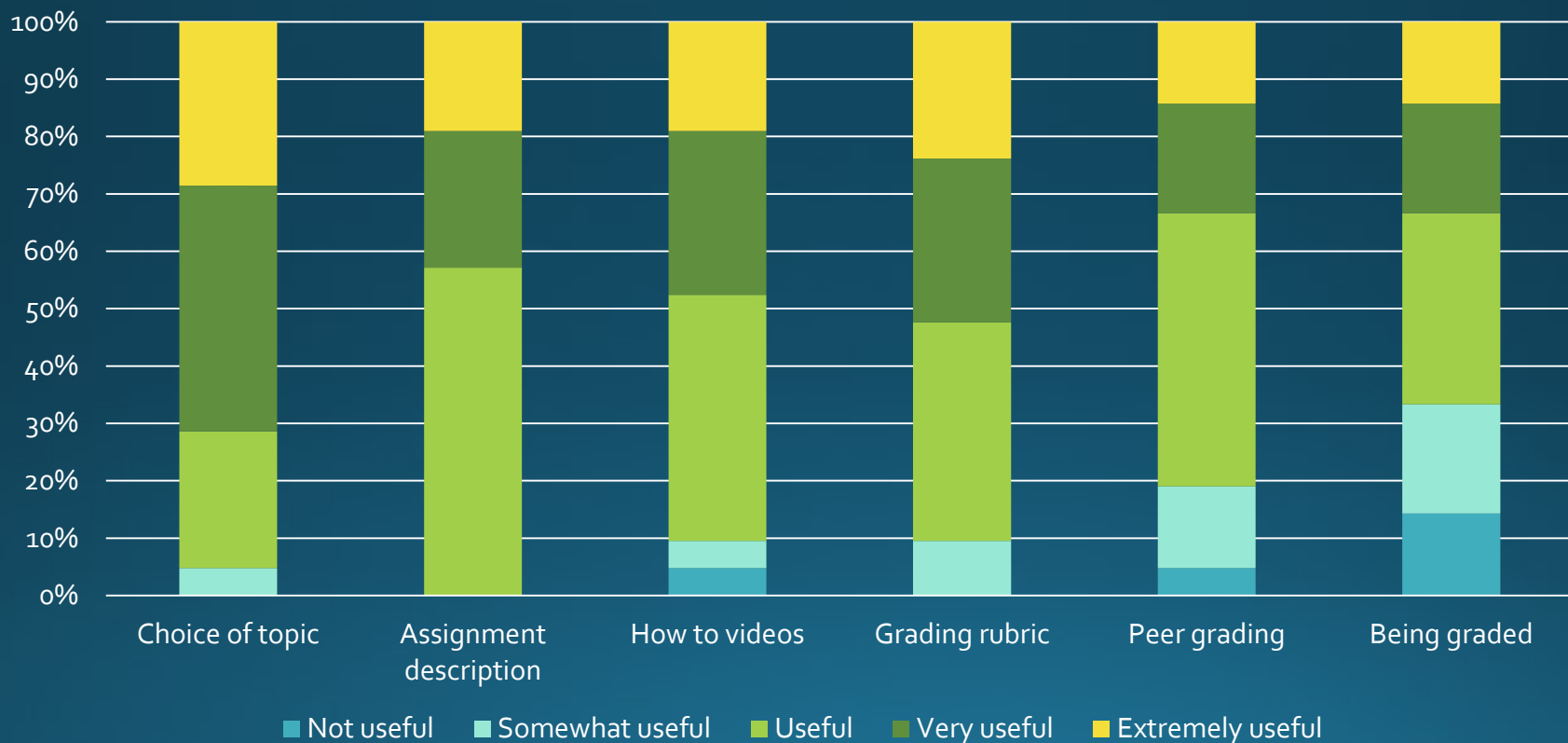
Results

How Helpful Were the Instructional “How-to” Videos?



Results

What is Your Opinion of the Usefulness of Components to Learning the Subject Matter?



Results

- 100% of students felt the grading rubric was helpful to very helpful
- 97% of students felt the assignment improved their interaction with their classmates and instructor
- Suggestions for improvement:
 - Create groups to foster collaborative learning experiences
 - Require selection of topics not covered in the course
 - Allow for more time to present

Conclusions

- Implementation of an Online Scholar's Ignite assignment was highly successful with positive student feedback
- "How-to" videos were mostly rated helpful to extremely helpful
- Almost all students (97%) felt the assignment enhanced communication among peers and instructor
- Peer-grading was found to be the least useful component of the assignment & suggests students are more comfortable with instructor-assigned grades
- Expanding topics and supporting group submissions may foster collaborative learning experiences

Questions?

