

Reading together: Using social annotation programs to support student engagement and learning

INTRO

- Large percentages of students do not complete course readings (Hoeft, 2012)
- Social annotation programs allow students to comment and engage with each other in the course readings, videos, podcasts, and other materials.
- Research suggests their use supports engagement, student preparedness for class subjective learning, and objective grades (Miller et al., 2018; Sigmon & Bodeck, 2022)

METHOD

- An anonymous survey was sent to two courses in Fall 2021 to a 300-level face-to-face class and a 200-level flipped hybrid course. In Summer 2020 the survey was given to a 300-level asynchronous online class.
- Students in all three classes had to read, watch, or listen to the materials in Perusall and make one comment.
- The survey asked about their perceived engagement, learning, enjoyment, and preparedness for class sessions and assessment.

Students found the use of social annotation supported their learning and their engagement their course:

“It encouraged me to actually do the readings. It was also interesting to see what the other people in the class thought about the readings. It was nice knowing I wasn’t doing them alone.”

“I liked the program! Normally I hate reading, but it kept me interested.”



Timothy M. Ottusch Ph.D.

RESULTS

Students reports of agree or completely agree in Fall 2021 courses

	%
I found the use of Perusall supported my learning	83.0
I was more likely to complete the readings because of the use of the Perusall program	85.1
I feel the readings via Perusall prepared me for the in-class sessions	82.0
I found the comments made by the other students supported my learning	73.4

Students reports of agree or completely agree in Summer 2022 course

I found the use of Perusall prepared me for the quizzes	70.0
I found the use of Perusall prepared for me the other assignments	95.0
I felt the use of the program increased the sense of community in the class	85.0
I think other courses should use Perusall for readings	85.0

Conclusion

- Think about how the use of the social annotation program may support varying modalities of classes.
- Social annotation programs may support varying aspects to your course.
- More objective learning measures are needed to be utilized in future research