

Helping Students Develop Good Study Habits Using Online Pre- and Post-lecture Quizzes

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Do you want students coming to class prepared? Do you want students staying on top of the class? Do you want students retaining materials learned? This quick hit shows you how to achieve these goals by using the online “Quizzes” feature on Canvas.

To access the “Quizzes” feature on Canvas, first log in and select the course for which you would like to create online quizzes. Canvas allows various question formats including multiple choice, true or false, numerical answer, and essay question. It also gives instructors the flexibility to choose the start and due dates of the quiz, the time limits, the number of attempts allowed, and other options. Instructors can access [a step-by-step guide](#) on how to create a quiz on Canvas.

The online quizzes will be automatically graded upon each individual submission, and the grades will be recorded in the grade book (the “Grades” feature) at the same time. Students can view their response and the correct answer for each question (if chosen by the instructor) immediately after submitting a quiz. Instructors can view and download the quiz statistics at the aggregated level, for any individual student, or for any single question.

I have been using this feature to create online quizzes for my introductory level classes. I usually have one pre-lecture quiz and one post-lecture quiz set up for each textbook chapter. The pre-lecture quizzes are open for seven days before the class. Since the purpose of having pre-lecture quizzes is encouraging students to read the textbook and come to class prepared, these quizzes are relatively easy and straightforward. I allow multiple attempts and only record their highest scores in the pre-lecture quizzes. You may choose to have them set as non-graded practice quizzes if applicable. The post-lecture quizzes are open for seven days after the class. They include advanced questions on the materials covered in class, which helps students retain the knowledge learned.

One useful tip is that it is better to set consistent due date and time because students are more likely to adopt it into their weekly routine. It does not take long before students find out that staying on top of the class is less stressful than busy catching up with deadlines. Since students are given enough time to complete the quizzes, they are notified in advance that no excuses will be accepted for not

completing their work on time. Such quizzes help students manage their time efficiently and enforce their sense of responsibility.

References

Canvas Center. How do I create a Quiz with individual Questions?

<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4152/l/41474-how-do-i-create-a-quiz-with-individual-questions>.