



UNE L&T Symposium 2024 – Presentation Synopsis

1. Title of Presentation:

Authentic invigilated assessment and student participation – poster and interview

2. Presenter Name and Affiliation:

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3. Main Takeaways:

Takeaway 1: If you are wondering if you're marking student's or AI's work, try this – students solving an authentic problem using primary sources in a supervised groupwork activity followed by an interview to determine depth of understanding.

Takeaway 2: This assessment assists students to overcome the uncomfortable feeling of how to approach solving a complex agricultural problem. By giving continuous formative feedback, students overcome initially feelings of being overwhelmed and produce very high standard of solutions.

4. Application in Educational Contexts:

Teaching Methods:

- Creating posters in groups can be achieved on campus but also online through shared files and zoom rooms, which was achieved during covid restrictions. Interviews are undertaken in groups in front of 15 or more students, with questions asked on the poster and surrounding content.

Assessment:

- As an authentic assessment, science students expect it will include realistic context and activity and require applying transferable skills (Schultz et al. 2022).

- A detailed marking rubric is provided where the poster assesses the ability to logically synthesise material as visual and textual elements; the interview assessing depth of understanding, critical thinking and being able to articulate concepts verbally.

Student Engagement:

- Being a groupwork project students engage with each other; there is a maximum of 1:4 ratio of academic staff to groups, where students are given formative feedback through the assessment.

- Prepares students for field based problem solving in agriculture, working in teams, thinking on their feet, and interpreting data presented in analogue form.

Curriculum Development:

- This assessment integrates a practical hands-on learning experience and group work into the first-year curriculum where students apply knowledge and skills in a practical context.

- This assessment meets all 7 of UNE's graduate attributes.

5. Valuable Sources and References:

Source 1: Schultz, M., Young, K., K. Gunning, T., & Harvey, M. L. (2022). Defining and measuring authentic assessment: a case study in the context of tertiary science. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 47(1), 77-94.

6. Weakness and Area for Future Research:

Weakness: The poster is created in 4.5hrs, requiring formative feedback to enable groups to think deeply about the problem, it is a high cognitive load on the students and supporting academic staff.

Future Research: This assessment assists students to overcome the uncomfortable feeling of how to approach solving a complex agricultural problem, where they may initially feel overwhelmed, but by breaking the task down in their group they achieve incredible solutions.