

Using pre-class review sessions to enhance learning in the Medical Physiology course

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The Background

Tutor since 2017 (M2 year)

Regularly explaining the same concepts during one-on-one tutoring appointments



Is there a way to
teach these concepts
more broadly?

10–15-minute
review sessions
before lecture



Successful?

1

Attendance at 7:45 AM was nearly the same as for 8 AM lecture

Successful?

Survey to get feedback:

Please rate how helpful these pre-lecture reviews are for you:

1. Not helpful and/or not necessary for my understanding
2. Somewhat helpful for my understanding
3. Very helpful for my understanding
4. Necessary for my understanding

2

85.7% Responded that reviews were “very helpful” or “necessary for understanding”

Successful?

3

Consistent positive comments during the course evaluation at the end of the semester without prompting

30

comments in 2020 about pre-class reviews

My Approach

Choose 1-3
concepts
from the
previous day

Create the
simplest
slides
possible

Practice so
that I can
explain
clearly and
efficiently

What do students like most?



SIMPLICITY

“I love how the tutors take the main points from the lecture or sometimes the most complex points and explain it in SUCH A SIMPLE WAY.”

What do students like most?



FOCUS

“I appreciate how concise they are and how the focus is on one or two high-yield and potentially confusing topics.”

What do students like most?



EXPLANATIONS

“I like that the topics are explained in a different way than they were in lecture so that I can get a better overall understanding of the ideas.”

“Todd's pre-class reviews should be a staple in all courses. This doesn't necessarily need to be Todd, but should preferably be someone just as engaging.”

“Todd's pre-lecture reviews were by far the best resource that I utilized outside of the actual lecture/slides. These should be encouraged for all courses.”

Takeaways

- There is value in brief reviews in medical education.
- Use to provide focus and additional explanations for challenging concepts.
- Simple and concise is best.

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