Exploring the use of Competition-Based Technologies in the Classroom

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The Technology

- Top Hat Monocle
  - allows students to answer exam-like review questions in a competitive fashion.
- Tournament module
- Students are paired against other students
  - 1 point is awarded for a correct answer, and an additional point is given to the participant with the faster response time.
- Face-off against each other in an effort to answer questions with both speed and accuracy
- Students are ranked amongst their peers based on their performance in the tournament

I will begin my presentation by introducing the internet-based program, Top Hat Monocle.
The questions being addressed in our study are the following:

**The Big Questions**

Firstly,
- Does the use of game based competition encourage students to familiarize themselves with course material prior to the exam?

and Secondly,
- Does knowing one’s rank prior to the examination affect student motivation?
So the best way to test this technology is to see it in action!

Let’s give it a try!

https://www.tophatmonocle.com/e/946916

- doesn’t work on internet explorer
Preliminary Results: Pilot

We piloted this study by

- **Fall 2012**: Implemented a tournament in HS 3300/KIN 3222 for Midterms 1 and 2
  Third year anatomy course
- **After the second midterm tournament**, asked students to complete a questionnaire assessing their experiences with the tournament(s)
  
  We received a total of
- **12 responses**

Here are the results:
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I found the tournament engaging.
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I feel that this tournament-style review will help me prioritize my studying for the upcoming midterm.
Here are the results:

I found that this competitive situation motivated me to put forth a greater effort in preparing for the upcoming midterm.
Did the Top Hat tournament experience (e.g. ranking, timing of questions) excitement and/or stress for you?

I enjoyed the excitement of testing my knowledge against those of my classmates

Excitement because I knew that it did not count for grades

It was very exciting

The timings of the tournaments did not work out [...]

The timing was stressful, especially on the questions where we had to match multiple terms

Some questions I would not have the time to answer
“Did your participation in the Top Hat tournament motivate you to study?”

The majority of the responses were positive - common responses were:

“Yes, I felt it showed me what I needed to study and made me want to study what I didn’t know”

“Yes. It allowed me to see my weaknesses in a test format”

“Yes. It made me realize which areas I need to study more in”
So now I open the floor to you!

What did you think of the tournament?

Comments/suggestions?