

Staying Connected to Students with Connected Quizzing

SUMMARY

In a time of remote learning, Connected Quizzing connects a professor to his students, especially the ones who are struggling. Now, back in the classroom, Connected Quizzing remains an important part of the course to help students learn, assess their understanding, and review.

Profile

Jack Harrison is Professor of Law at Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law, and Director for the Center for Excellence in Advocacy. Professor Harrison's research and scholarship is focused on topics related to civil procedure/federal courts and sexuality, identity, and the law.

EDUCATOR

Jack Harrison

SCHOOL

Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law

COURSE

Civil Procedure

COURSE MATERIALS

Civil Procedure: A Coursebook with Connected eBook + Study Center, Examples & Explanations: Civil Procedure (recommended) by Glannon, and Connected Quizzing

Background

For over five years, Professor Jack Harrison had used Glannon's *Civil Procedure* coursebook, but had not taken advantage of online learning tools corresponding to the text, such as *Connected Quizzing* or the *Connected eBook*. Shares Harrison, "When the pandemic caused classes to go to remote learning, I began to look around for ways to assess and track my students' progress on a regular basis." A demonstration of *Connected Quizzing* solidified Harrison's decision to require it in his course.

Harrison is cognizant of the high cost of law school course materials. To offer his students savings, Harrison worked with his Aspen rep to create a bundle which includes Glannon's Civil Procedure: A Coursebook with the Connected eBook + Study Center, the new edition of Examples & Explanations: Civil Procedure, and Connected Quizzing. Although Harrison has never required Examples & Explanations, he found that most of his students end up purchasing it. By including it in the bundle, students have access to it at a fraction of the cost. To avoid confusion, Harrison and his Aspen rep put together an email to students outlining the bundle option, benefits, and instructions on how to purchase it. They also worked with the bookstore to ensure a smooth purchasing process.

Though Harrison does not require that students purchase the bundle, the majority do. As a result, more of Harrison's students are using the *Connected eBook* which, says Harrison, "provides my students with a variety of tools and modalities to help them learn the material."



Implementation

Connected Quizzing is used primarily as an assessment and as a teaching tool so that students can use the questions to learn and review the material. Harrison assigns relevant quizzes at the beginning of topic coverage, with due dates that fall a couple weeks after. Harrison's recommendation to his students is: "Look at the questions, think about the questions, and don't submit them until you're ready." Quizzes are worth 15% of the final grade and actual scores are counted. Since Harrison gives plenty of time for his students to prepare for taking the quizzes, he expects scores to reflect this.

Through Aspen Publishing's *Quiz Concierge*, Harrison has been able to modify and combine quizzes, since the topics he covers are not in the same order as the book. This cuts down on confusion and has also allowed Harrison to combine quizzes when appropriate.

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– Jack Harrison, Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law

Impact

Without being able to physically see his students in the classroom, by nature, remote learning made it more difficult for Harrison to intervene. However, Connected Quizzing turned out to be the way Harrison could connect, literally, with students who needed his assistance most. He says, "I could reach out to these students, based on their Connected Quizzing performance, in a way that didn't embarrass them, to ask how I could help." When classes changed to hybrid, with some students in class, and some at home, continues Harrison, "Connected Quizzing continued to be a great way to assess, on a weekly basis, how my students were doing and easily identify which students were struggling." Now fully back in the classroom, Connected Quizzing remains an important part of the course.

Harrison feels his students appreciate Connected Quizzing because, "It serves as a tool for them to gauge if they are understanding the material." He allows students to see the correct answers upon submission of each quiz so they can immediately get feedback on how they have done and where they went wrong. Since the quizzes are keyed closely to the coursebook, students can easily go back and revisit information they may have missed. As students begin to prepare for exams, they can revisit quizzes for additional review.

A Teachable Moment

When Harrison notices multiple students reaching out to him with questions on the same quiz problem, he uses this as a teachable moment to bring further coverage or clarification to the topic in class. Says Harrison, "Sometimes we talk a question through, and we don't agree that the given explanation is correct, or maybe we only partially agree." Although there is only one 'correct' answer for a multiple choice question, Harrison uses this situation to help his students consider how they could fully explore and answer it. He recommends, "If this were an essay question, you could – and should – discuss all possible avenues."

Conclusion

Harrison appreciates being able to see how much time students spend on *Connected Quizzing*. "Some students may only spend five minutes, and that's their choice, but there are also some students who sit down and use the quiz as an opportunity to learn. They might spend an hour or two – and to me, that's time well spent."

Harrison plans to stay on track with his use of *Connected Quizzing*. He shares, "For teachers who are looking for ways to have a constant assessment, it's a really effective tool." He notes that, "Although it would be possible for professors to make their own quiz questions, that would be an awful lot of work. Here you have a great resource available, and students like it."

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