Inquiry Brief

Purpose

The purpose of my inquiry is to raise formative and summative scores by using online course management software (Moodle) as a supplement to my regular class. My goal is that I will see the level of understanding increase in my Building Wealth class compared to results from last semester. Not only will I expect to see high formative and summative assessment scores, but also a richer classroom discussion should result. In summary, my ultimate purpose is to simply improve learning in my classroom.

Question:

To what extent will using Moodle as, part of my daily class routine, improve learning levels of the classroom as a whole?

Sub questions:

Will students use the extra resources on Moodle?

Will students access Moodle from outside of the classroom on their own time?

Will good class discussion take place in the Moodle Forums?

Will actual class discussion be enriched because of the Moodle Forums?

Will class averages on regular formative assessments (10 question quizzes given 2-3 times a week) increase compared to first semester?

Will scores on the Final formative assessment increase compared to last semester's scores?

Method:

I will put all "in class" resources on our class Moodle website; this will allow students to access materials at any time and from any location. I will also put at least one discussion forum for each topic online for students to participate in. Discussion forums will be used as "classroom discussion" but one in which everyone gets a chance to talk and respond to other comments. Discussion forums will be graded in order to encourage participation. The format for grading a discussion will be: 4 points for responding to my questions and 4 points for responding to two

classmates responses (2 points per response). I will follow up discussion forums the following day with a brief in class discussion on the same topic. The assigned readings, forum discussion, and in class discussion will be followed by the 10 question formative assessment.

Data Collection

Scores for formative assessments

Scores for Summative assessment

Online forum responses

Resources accessed online

Observed in class discussion

Calendar

- January
  - Set up Moodle class and enter all students in Building Wealth.
  - Introduce students to Moodle with simple introduction activities not related to Building wealth
    - Following links, forum discussions, file uploads, etc.
  - Begin using Moodle along with each in class unit

- February
  - Upload Inquiry Brief on Edumodo (15th)
  - Continue using Moodle on a regular basis in class.
  - Encourage students to access Moodle from outside of class
  - Collect data

- March

  - Galileo Seminar – Novi (2nd)

  - Continue to collect data

  - Analyze data and record the findings of my research.

  - Begin work on the Research fair project for April.

- April

  - Continue to collect and analyze data

  - Prepare research paper and project for the action fair

  - Galileo Leadership Fair - Oakland Schools

- May

  - Continue research for my own purposes

  - Draw conclusions and plan for next year