

Effective Use of Comic Strip Development in an Online Learning Environment



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Purpose and Rationale

Purpose. To evaluate the effectiveness of using comic strip development to review basic management functions through peer evaluation in an online learning module.

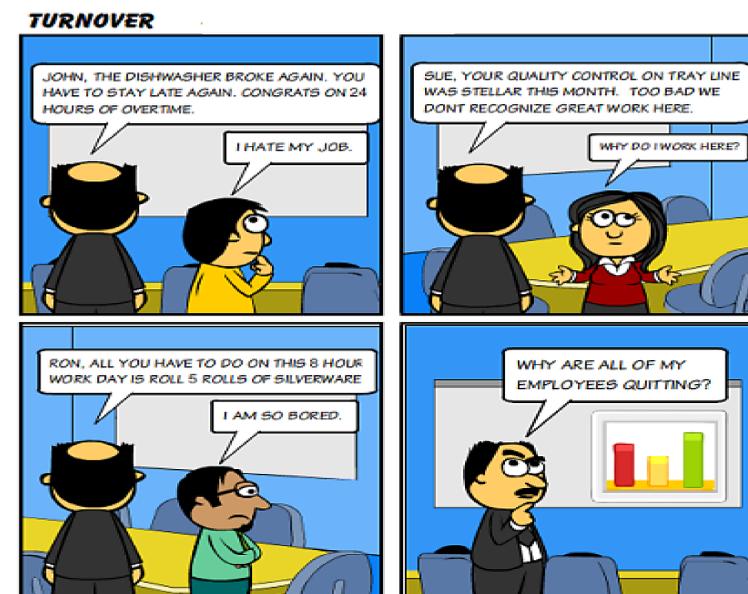
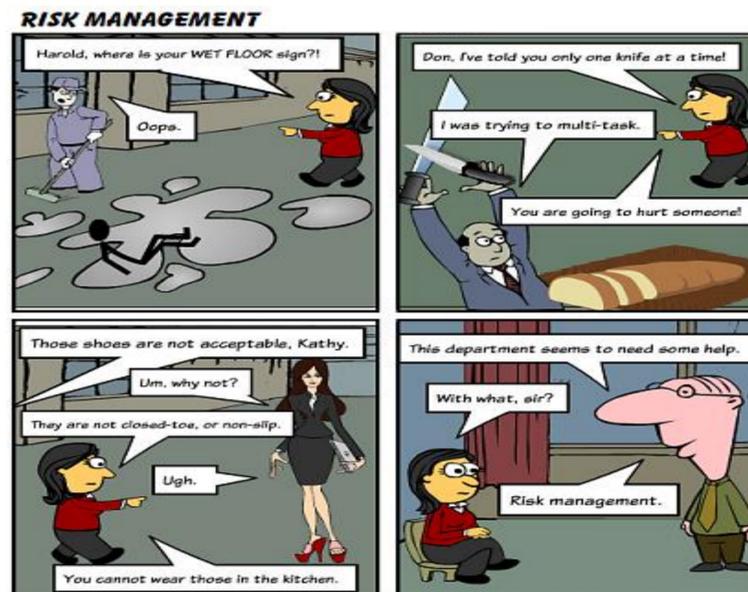
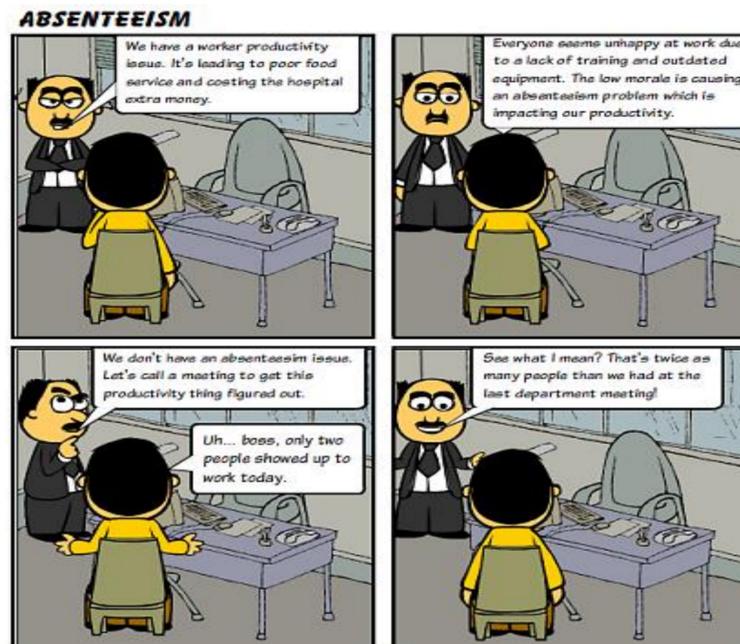
Rationale. While the effective use of comic strip development is more widely acceptable at the elementary and secondary levels, limited research is available on its effectiveness in higher education. Tenets of the Social Cognitive Theory and the Theory of Instructional Design were incorporated into the development of this interactive comic strip assignment.

The Assignment

Using the resources in the ToonDoo Learning Module, create a 4 block comic strip on one specific management concept, as identified in the Padlet Board. You will need to illustrate a management concept within the food and nutrition services environment.

Methodology

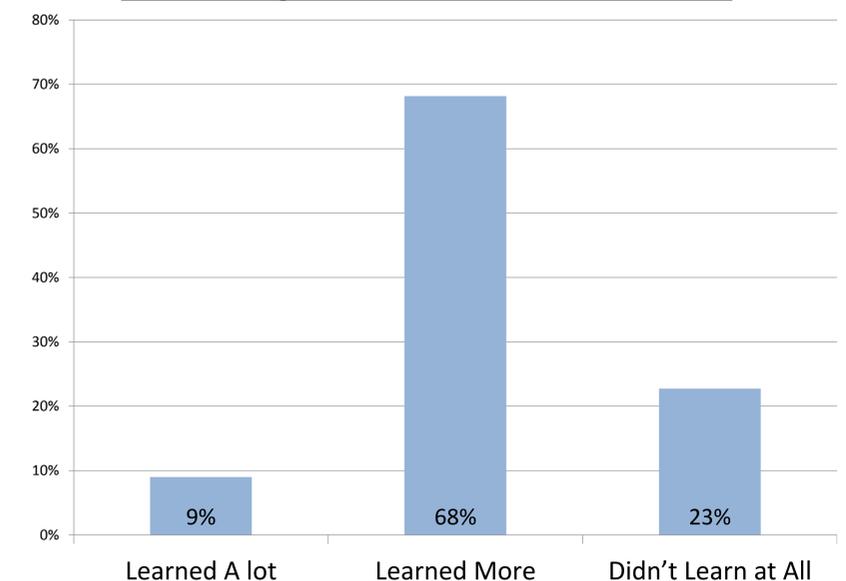
Participants were selected from a four-week online graduate level nutrition services management course. The graduate students (n=22) selected a management topic related to food and nutrition services from a pre-determined list and individually designed a four-square comic square using ToonDo. The comic strips were developed, and then, posted in a discussion forum for review and comment by their peers. Students responded to an 8-question online survey on their perception of the effectiveness of the assignment in assessing knowledge of the management function as well as their level of engagement with this assignment.



Findings

The majority of students (77%) stated they learned from their classmates' comic strips with 63% of students stating that they enjoyed participating in the peer evaluation. Fourteen students (58%) agreed that comic strips could be utilized to enhance learning with half of the students agreeing that comic strips could be used to assess student learning.

Reviewing Classmate's Comic Strips



Implications for Research and/or Practice

The inclusion of the comic strip assignment was an effective, engaging, and enjoyable way to assess the practical application of a management function in a creative manner. Nutrition educators could utilize this strategy when having learners develop educational presentations or as an ice breaker.