How do you learn?
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Problem
• Teaching styles of professors are often incompatible with students’ learning preferences
• This issue can retard learning

Solution
Inform teachers about the discrepancies in the classroom

Goals
• Find trends within the class on learning preferences
• Show teacher these trends
• Encourage teachers to implement changes
• Open conversation between students and teachers

Methodology
• Three teachers distributed surveys to students
• Each classes responses were summarized
• Teachers were asked:
  1) Was the information helpful?
  2) Will the student information cause teaching to be changed in the classroom?

Survey Sample questions
• How do you like teacher office hours?
• What do you prefer for online homework?
• How do you prefer classroom interactions?
• When a teacher is absent, which do you prefer?

Data/Observations
Do you like it when teachers show proofs or derive solutions?

- Yes, I appreciate it because it is something that will be on the test
- No, just show me the formula to use and I'll memorize it
- Yes, I appreciate it even if we won't be asked to derive it on the test

For online homework, do you prefer:

- Easier questions with limited attempts
- Intermediate questions with a point deduction per attempt
- Harder questions with unlimited attempts

Conclusion
• Students do want change in the classroom
• Implementable student preferences would benefit WPI as a whole
• This project allowed for conversation between students and teachers to be formed

Long-term implementation
• According to some members of the WPI faculty, this project has potential for long-term implementation
• If the solution was implemented it would be on an opt-in basis by professors

Work Cited


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