

Using Teaching Vignettes for Staff Development

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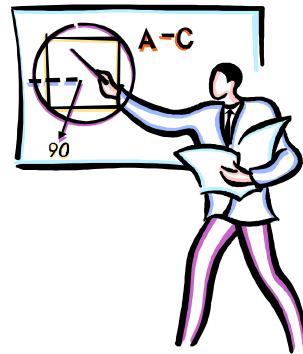


Teaching Vignettes at NCI

The School of Informatics at the National College of Ireland encourages Faculty development by providing programmes each year to enhance the learning and teaching skills of its Faculty.

A teaching vignette is a short presentation by a Faculty member to their colleagues and is usually about a new or different teaching method that they have tried in class:

- ❖ One vignette at each weekly Faculty meeting
- ❖ Different member of Faculty presents each week
- ❖ Each vignette is short (5-10 minutes)



Examples

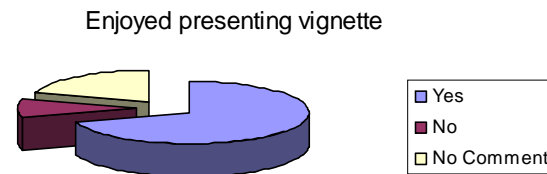
- ❖ The use of stories to help students understand difficult concepts
- ❖ The use of games (eg the word game "Hangman") in Java
- ❖ Variations of assessment techniques
- ❖ The introduction of Podcasts into the classroom

Project Goal

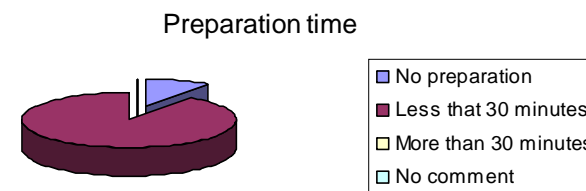
- ❖ This project investigates the effectiveness of a range of teaching vignettes
- ❖ A questionnaire to determine:
 - effort in creating a vignette
 - tools and presentation style used
 - how useful vignettes presented by others are
 - overall satisfaction
- ❖ A short questionnaire was developed and sent to each ten Faculty members – 100% response rate

Survey Results

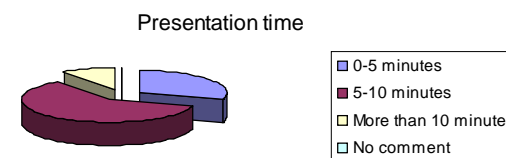
1. Do you enjoy presenting vignettes as part of the School of Informatics staff development programme?



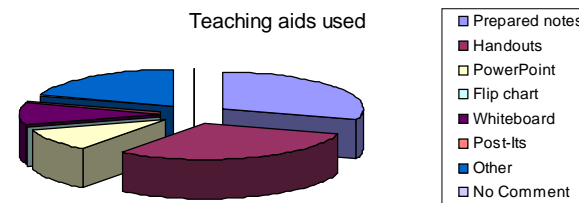
2. How much time do you spend preparing your vignette?



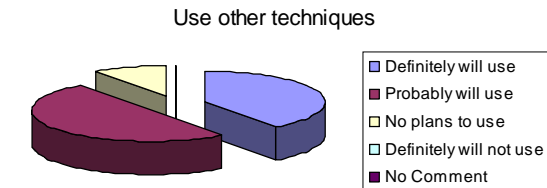
3. How much time do you spend presenting your vignette?



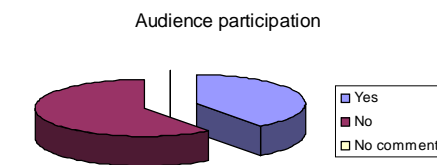
4. Did you use any of the following aids during your vignette?



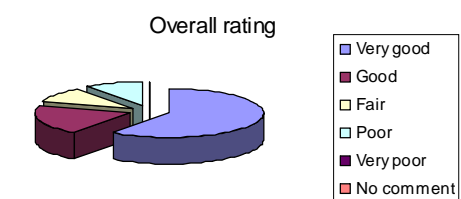
5. Do you think that you will use some of the techniques presented by other Faculty members in vignettes that you have attended?



6. Did your vignette involve participation in an activity by other Faculty members at the school meeting?



7. Overall, how do you rate the use of teaching vignettes as part of the School of Informatics staff development programme?



Teaching Vignettes provide:

"...new ideas to enhance the education experience in the classroom that otherwise might not be used."

NCI Faculty Member



Conclusions

The main conclusions of this short study are:

- ❖ Teaching vignettes are an effective, valuable, and popular tool
- ❖ Many new teaching experiences shared among staff
- ❖ Very little time is spent by each Faculty member in preparing for each vignette

Recommendations

The following are the main recommendations of this study:

- ❖ Encourage the development and use of teaching vignettes
- ❖ Allocate time to prepare for the vignettes
- ❖ Experiment more with ideas presented in the vignettes
- ❖ Hold follow up sessions to evaluate effectiveness