



Testing interactivity in blended education

Instructor and students' feedback on a Skype session

Leuven-Groningen, October 25 2016

Background

- This small study was conducted as part of the EFESE project (www.efese.eu)
- The objective was to collect information from the users when experimenting an interactive and synchronized online distance lesson via Skype.
- The results will support further decisions regarding the element of interactivity in the design of blended courses.

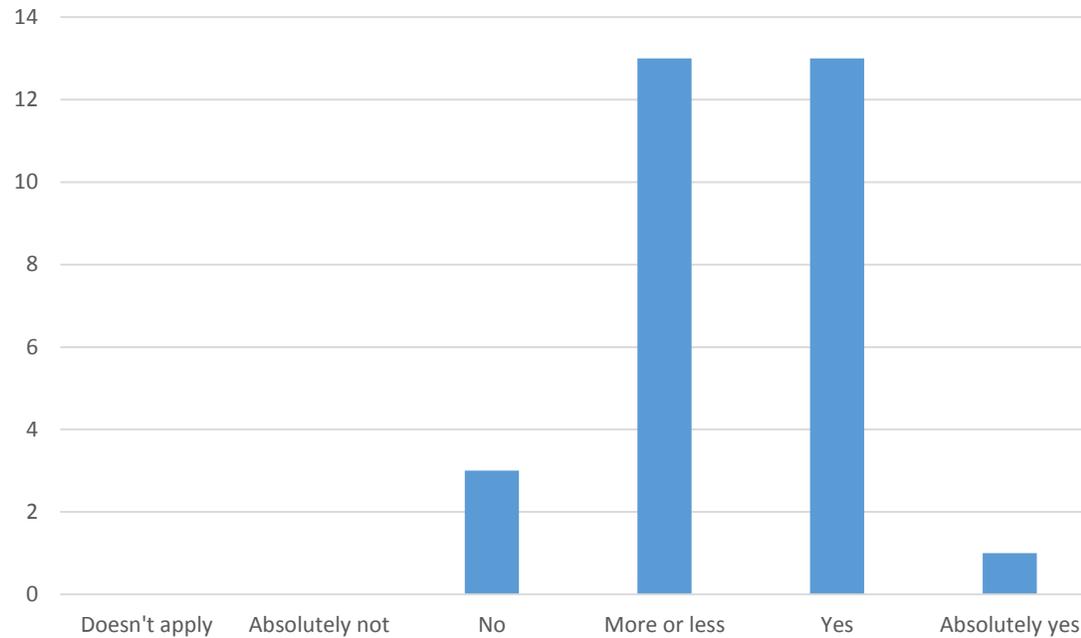
Background

- The questionnaire has 8 multiple-choice questions with the possibility to comment.
- It was filled in, anonymously, by 31 Belgian students.
- Characteristics of the students:
 - Age average: 22
 - Gender: 26% male; 74% female
 - Current level of studies: 1st year master
- The questionnaire was also filled in by the instructor. Results are shown apart.

Background

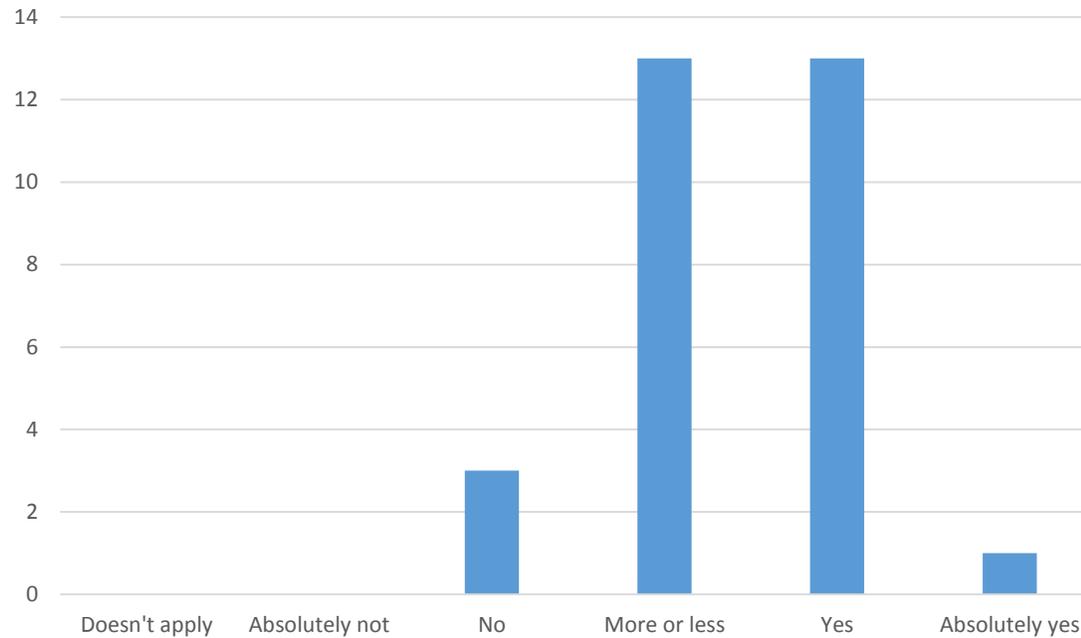
- The students were sitting together in a classroom in Leuven facing a large screen projecting the image of the instructor, who was sitting in Groningen.
- The students had to prepare for the lesson before coming to the class (blended approach to education).
- The lesson lasted 2 hours, like any other regular lesson. With a break of 15 minutes.

1. Was the Skype session useful to you?



- (More or less): It's a useful way to connect with foreign instructors. In that sense, it's useful to get an understanding of other systems. However, it isn't ideal; audio problems can be annoying.
- (More or less): Difficult to keep your attention to the course.
- (No): It's a new experience but, in my opinion, it will stay the first and the last time.
- (No): I would have learned a lot more through the usual way of giving a lecture.
- (Yes): It would had been very useful if this skype session was available for working students, so they don't need to skip work and travel 3 hours. Maybe this can be considered for next year.

1. Was the Skype session useful to you?

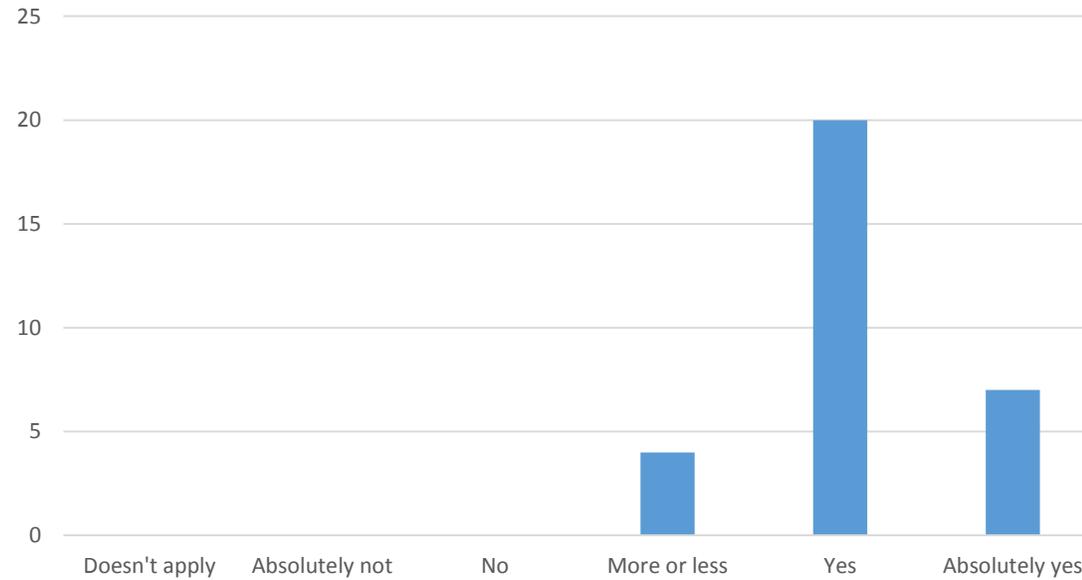


To the instructor: At the end of the Skype session, did you feel satisfied with it?

More or less. I had problems identifying the response of the group before the break. Perhaps some people in the group should be appointed for responding to open questions? Further: Quality of the sound was not too good.

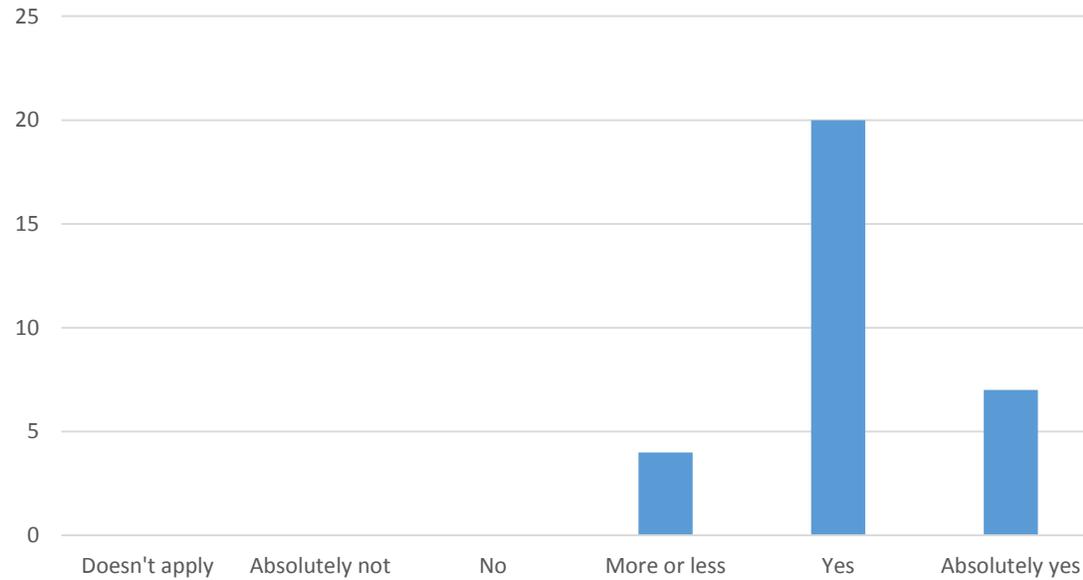
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2. Did you prepare what you needed to prepare before the Skype session?



- (Absolutely yes): If I wouldn't had prepared the lecture, It would even be more difficult to follow the lecture than it already was.

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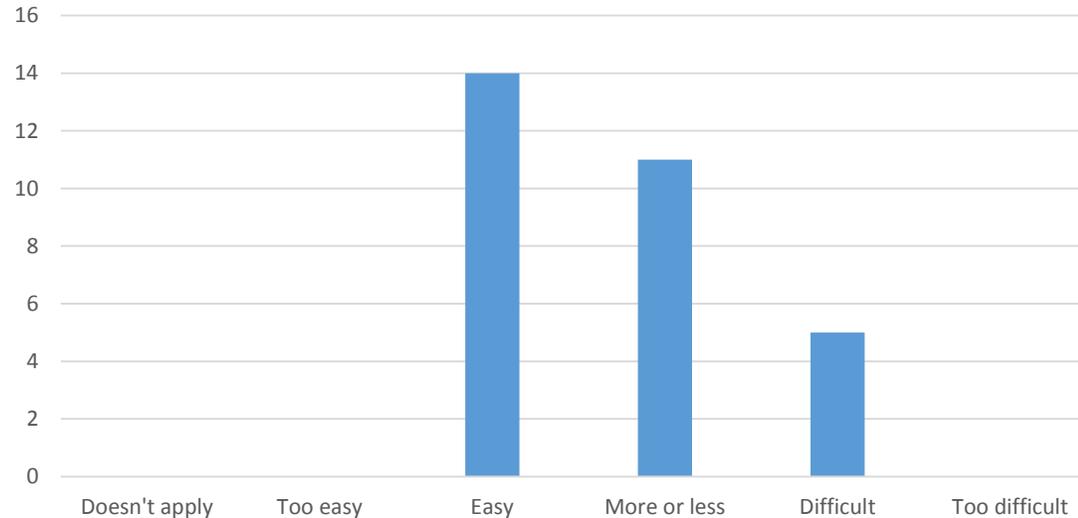


To the instructor: Did you perceive that the students prepared at home before the Skype session?

Absolutely yes. I was impressed with the answers after the break

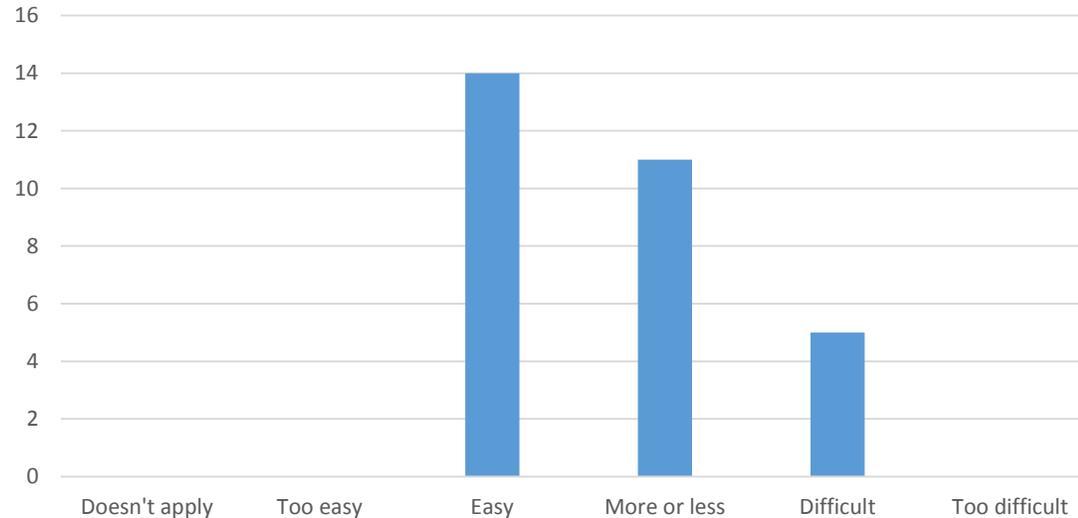
- (Absolutely yes): If I wouldn't had prepared the lecture, It would even be more difficult to follow the lecture than it already was.

3. How difficult was it for you to follow the teacher-student interaction during this Skype session?



- (More or less): Not so easy to stay focused during a skype session.
- (More or less): The professor didn't hear us well. We did hear him quite good.
- (More or less): It is more difficult to concentrate than when the professor is present.
- (More or less): More difficult to focus.
- (More or less): Difficult to keep concentrated, just listening to a voice.
- (Difficult): It's hard to concentrate due to just hearing a voice for 2 hours. You lose interest after a while, even with the best interest to keep being concentrated.

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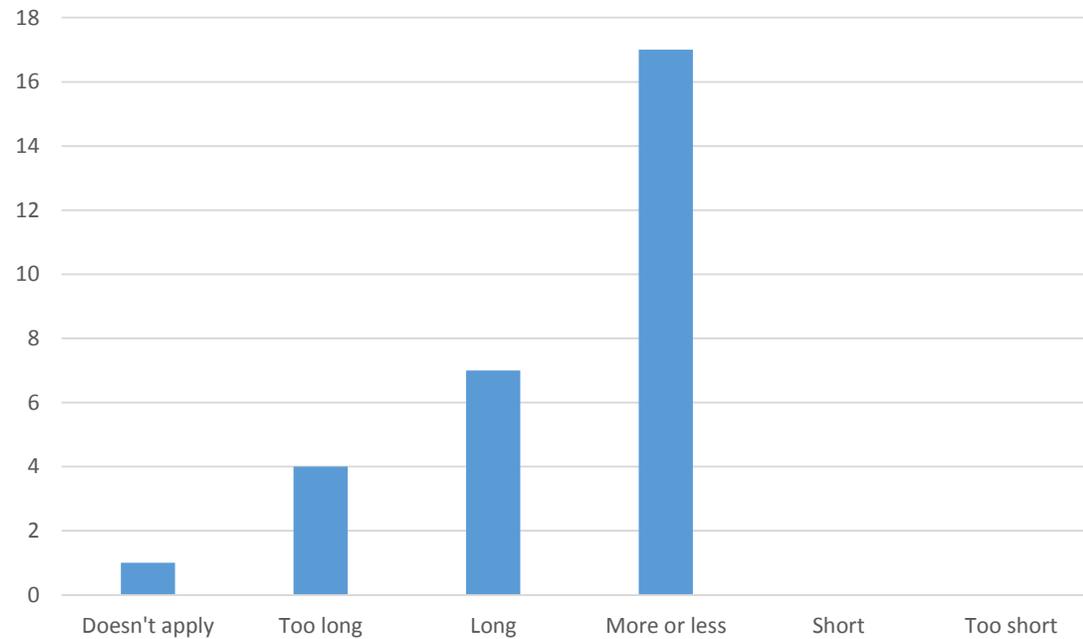


To the instructor: How difficult was it for you to activate the teacher-student interaction during this Skype session?



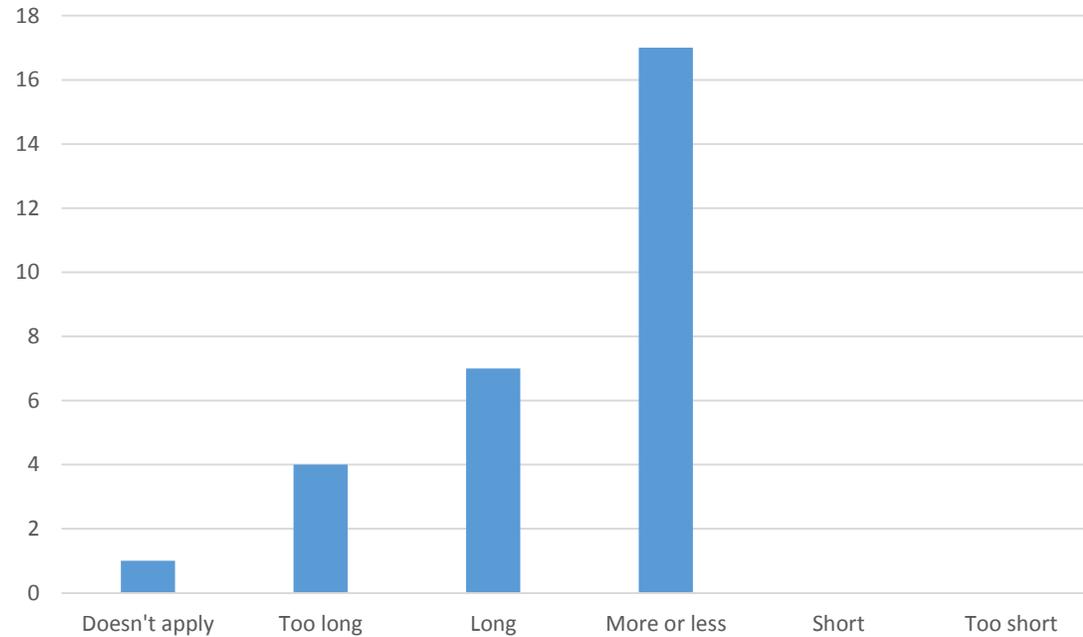
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4. How was the length of the Skype session?



- (Long): It was ok.
- (Long): It's difficult to keep concentrated when there is no person in front of you.
- (Long): Sometimes, the professor was too general.
- (Too long): After 10 minutes, your concentration is gone.
- (Long): It's difficult to understand each other. You have to repeat your answers... It's not interesting if you have to communicate.

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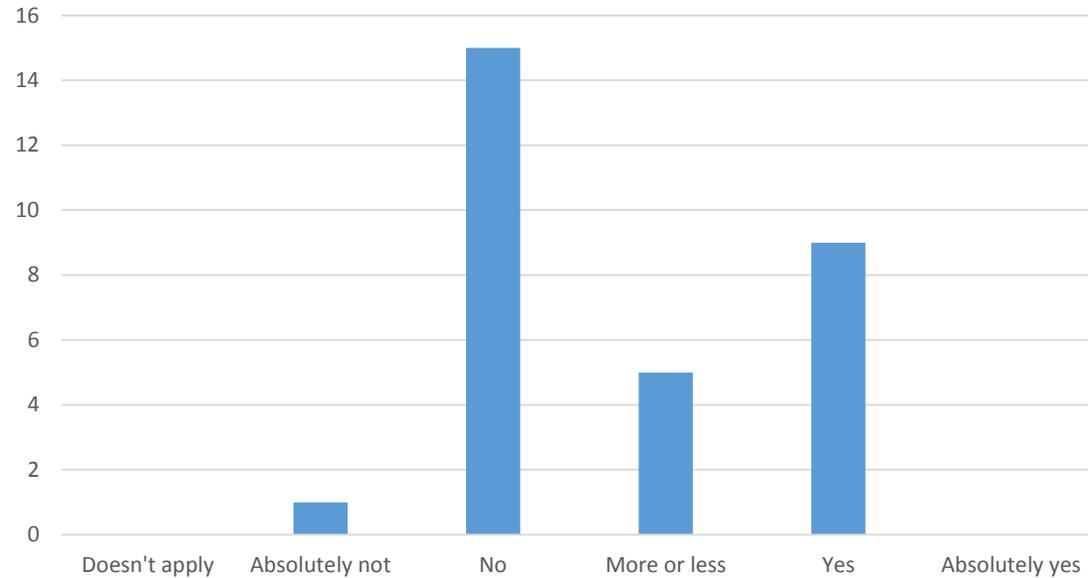


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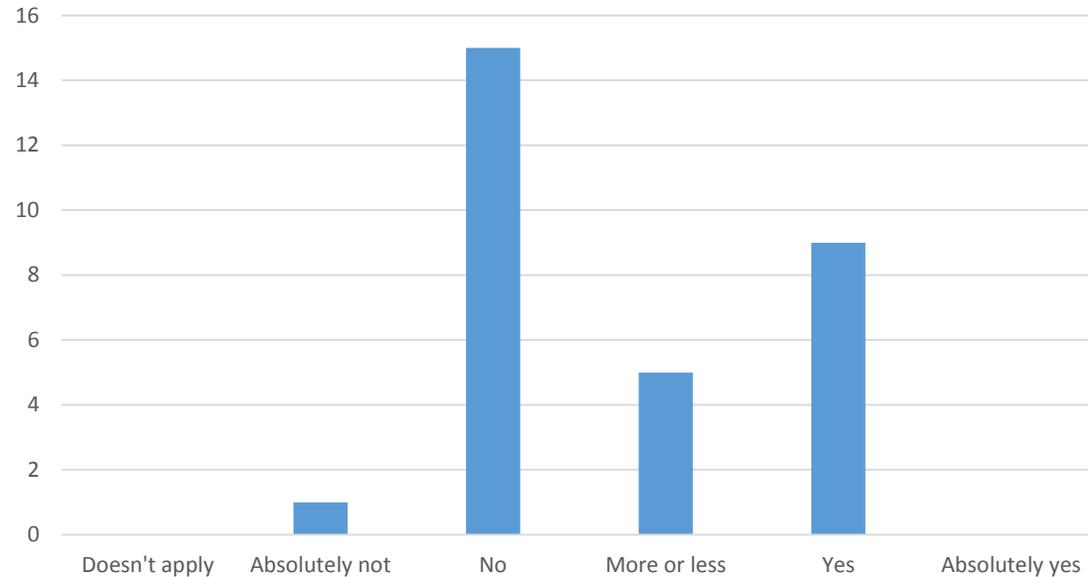
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5. Would you like to receive instruction in this form again?



- (No): While it's an interesting way to receive instruction, it still has its faults. My main concern is that it isn't always as understandable.
- (No): I prefer that the professor is here in real life.
- (No): But still a good way when the professor cannot be present.
- (No): I prefer the normal lectures.
- (No): I prefer to follow a lecture in the regular form or to watch a course at home with my computer.
- (Absolutely not): I prefer the normal way of following a lecture. It's just too difficult to keep concentrated via Skype.
- (Yes): For working students it could be interesting to follow the courses.

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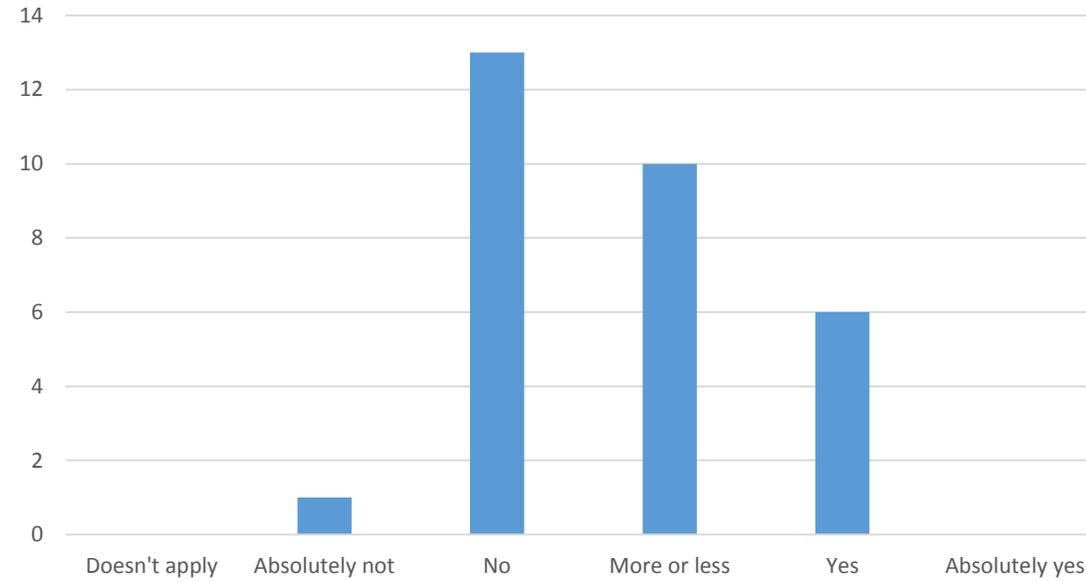


To the instructor: Would you like to give instruction in this form again?



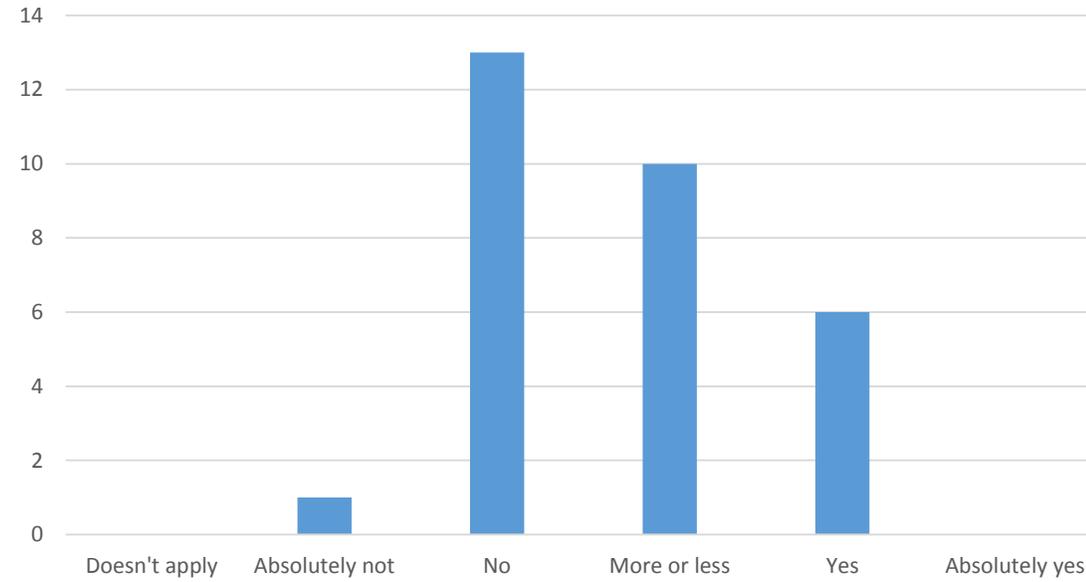
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6. Would you recommend this kind of session to your classmates?



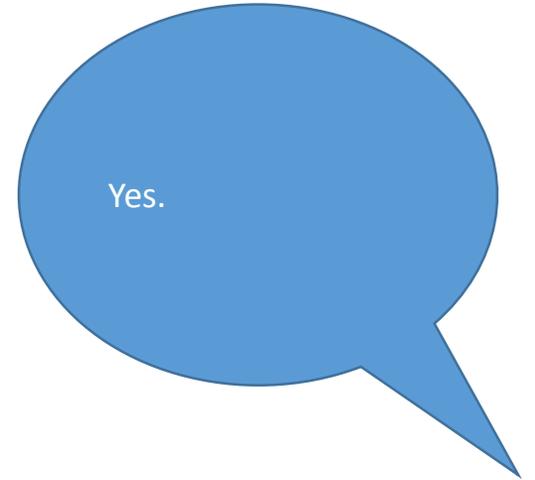
- (More or less): Variation can be nice.
- (Absolutely not): I believe you remember a lot more through the normal way of giving a lecture.

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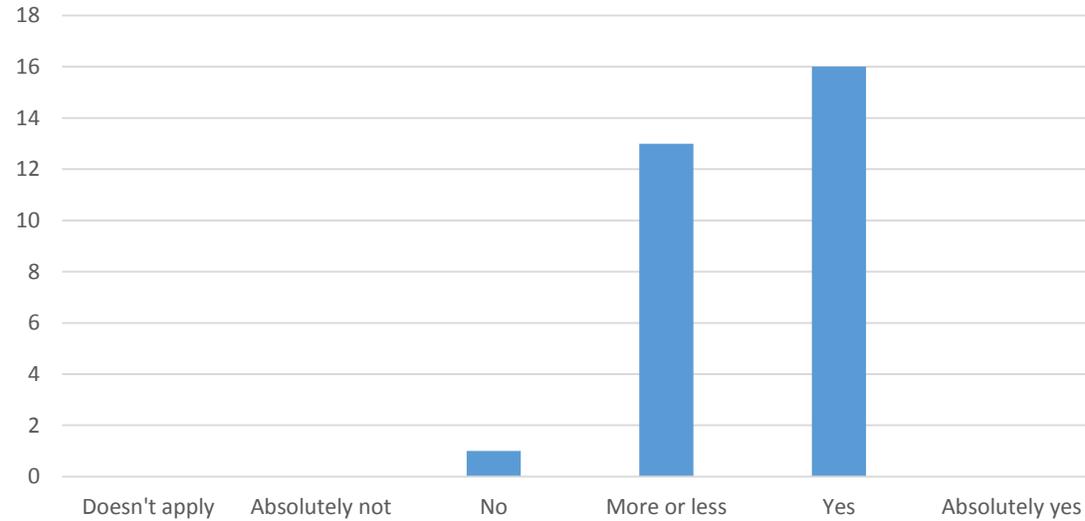


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To the instructor: Would you recommend your colleagues to carry out this kind of sessions?

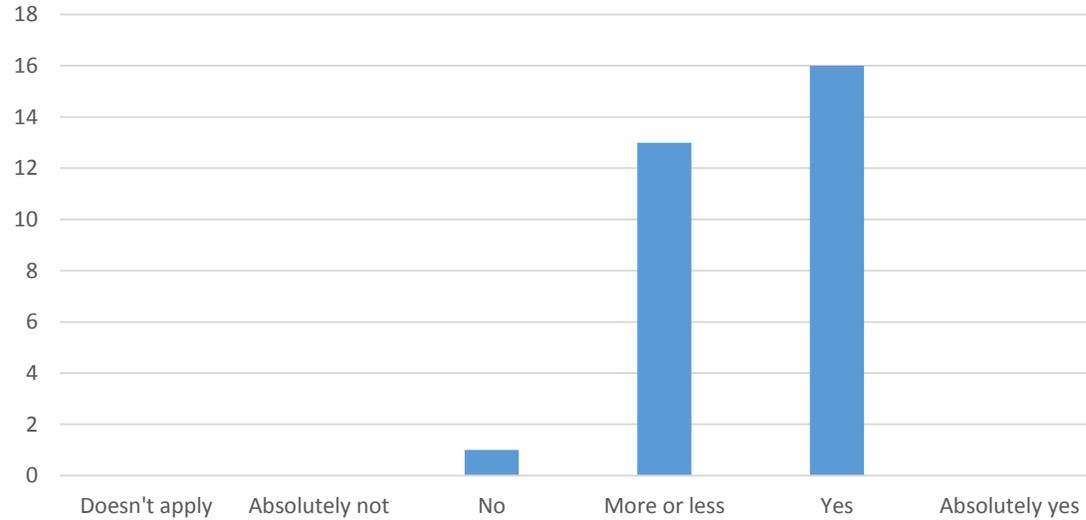


7. Do you think you could explain to another student the topics that were discussed today during the Skype session?

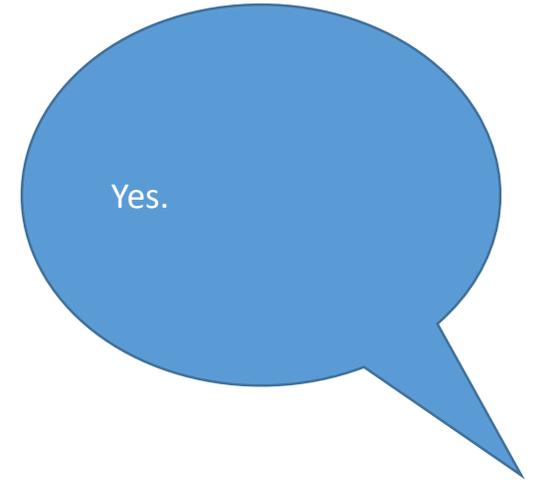


- (More or less): The voice of the speaker at the other side is not always clear. I believe that I remember more from a regular lecture.
- (More or less): I would be able to explain it thanks to the preparation before the lecture.

7. Do you think you could explain to another student the topics that were discussed today during the Skype session?



To the instructor: Do you think that the students will be able to explain (to other students) the topics that were discussed during the Skype session?



- (More or less): The voice of the speaker at the other side is not always clear. I believe that I remember more from a regular lecture.
- (More or less): I would be able to explain it thanks to the preparation before the lecture.

8. Is there something else you would recommend us to improve the Skype sessions?

- No. I just do not recommend it at all!

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To the instructor: Is there something else you would recommend us to improve the Skype sessions?



Just do it and learn.