

ACTIVE LEARNING IN AN ADVANCED BUSINESS STATISTICS CLASS

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ABSTRACT

Topics taught in a typical advanced business statistics class include multiple regression, forecasting, and statistical process control. Textbooks do address this material but not necessarily in a readily understood form for students. To aid students' learning, this instructor developed Breeze presentations as well as lesson notes that students use to take notes from the presentations. This resulted in no need for lecture in class so class time now became a time for active learning.

Students were required to bring a laptop to class so that each day the class could engage in use of statistical software, *Minitab*, for developing output from which to make business decisions. Additionally, students now have time to work with applets in class to encourage better theoretical understanding of a variety of concepts. Students report that they feel more ready to ask questions since they have worked with the material prior to class while doing the Breeze presentations. Since our College of Business has wireless access to the Internet, students may also find data using the university databases or use other Internet resources.

Benefits from this mode of instruction include better student engagement in class, easier completion of lesson assignments by students outside of class, more time available so that two group projects may be assigned rather than just one, and improvement in student attitudes toward the course.

Breeze presentations will be demonstrated along with the associated lesson notes. Additionally, examples of in-class activities will be presented. Not all class activities require the use of laptops so the presentation will include examples of group activities as well as Internet and data based activities.