

Contests as a Catalyst for Content Creation

WHAT IF

What if youth were actively creating and sharing educational web-based content, learning from their own practice and from the work of others?

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

The Contests as Catalysts project is studying how various contest structures foster the creation of science content by students. Three models of online engagement motivations and participation incentives are explored: chance, competition and altruism. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, the research team is also exploring students' choices of learning resources and the role of teachers and community in encouraging participation.

WHAT WE FOUND

Results of this research suggest that well-designed contests can motivate and energize youth engagement, creativity and collaboration. Prizes generate participation. Effective processes included those that encourage students to produce content, engage in discussion and respond to feedback. Team collaboration enhanced performance. Teacher participation and influence are essential. Positive effects were evidenced from teacher and classroom involvement, community visibility and support, and multi-school networked learning communities.

LEARN MORE

mediaX Research Update, fall, 2013
http://mediaX.stanford.edu/FOC/barron_F2013.pdf

mediaX Research Update, spring, 2013
http://mediax.stanford.edu/FOC/FOC_S2013.pdf

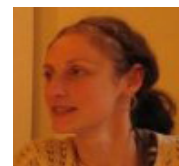
VitalSigns website... <http://vitalsignsme.org/>

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