

Computers and MORE Help in Lectures

Kenneth Janda
Department of Political Science
Northwestern University

Talk at Emerging Technologies III, sponsored by Apple Computer and the Association of American Publishers
McGraw-Hill Auditorium, New York City, November 15, 1991

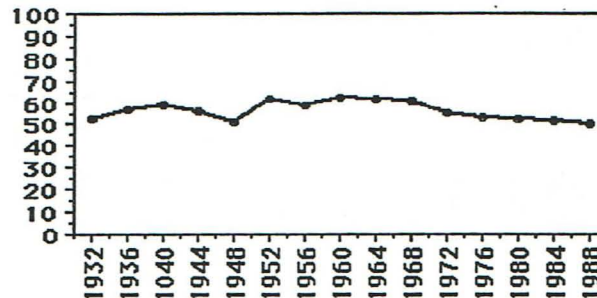
- + I. Using off-the-shelf software in teaching
 - A. Using programs for "displaying outlines"
 - + B. What you are seeing now
 - Hiding and showing "children"
 - You can see how it's done
 - + C. Available outlining programs
 - + For the Macintosh
 - This is MORE, by Symantec
 - + Other programs
 - ACTA, also by Symantec
 - Persuasion, by Aldus
 - CA-Cricket Presents
 - PowerPoint by Microsoft
 - + For IBM-compatibles
 - ThinkTank
 - Storyboard
 - Show Partner
- + II. My view of the teacher
 - + A. Selects and presents information
 - My own subject is American government
 - My typical class has over 200 students
 - + I do use an American government textbook:
 - Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey Berry, Jerry Goldman
 - *The Challenge of Democracy*, 3rd ed.
 - Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992
 - + B. Helps students learn the information
 - + Teaching depends on the setting
 - level of the students
 - size of the class
 - available technology
 - + Large courses pose special problems
 - Lectures can be difficult to follow
 - Hard to present some types of information
 - Students lack access to the teacher
 - + C. Inspires them to learn more on their own
 - Make the subject interesting
 - Make it intellectually challenging
 - Raise questions to study
- + III. My view of the computer
 - A. Can help in presenting information
 - B. Can help in learning the material
 - C. Can provide opportunities to learn more
 - D. But teachers do the inspiring, not computers

- + IV. Using computers in teaching
 - + A. Outside the classroom
 - + programs tailored to the subject
 - to explore ideas or to conduct research
 - + software with The Challenge of Democracy
 - IDEALog--for analyzing political values
 - + CROSSTABS--for quantitative research
 - on roll call voting in the 101st Congress
 - on voting behavior in the 1988 election
 - 1987 EDUCOM/NCRIPTAL Software Award
 - + Videopaths to American Government
 - developed with a grant from Apple
 - + 90 minutes of video images
 - the Watergate affair
 - ideology and political participation
 - presidential popularity
 - the civil rights movement
 - the Vietnam War
 - + Multi-Media approach
 - Links video images on laserdiscs
 - to the computer with hypercard
 - + something for all courses:
 - electronic mail
 - students have another point of contact
 - + B. Inside the classroom
 - + Depends on the subject & class size
 - + Computers help little when . . .
 - teachers aim for student discussion
 - classes are small and teaching is personal
 - + Computers can help when . . .
 - teachers convey structured information
 - class size demands that teachers lecture
 - + Example: lecturing on American politics
 - lecture hall holds 260 students
 - + equipped with an electronic console
 - audio tape
 - video tape
 - video projector
 - Macintosh SE30 computer
- + V. Lecturing with MORE
 - + A. Presenting substantive arguments
 - + *The Purposes of government*
 - *Maintain order*
 - *Provide public goods*
 - *Promote equality*
 - + *Three political values*
 - + *Order*
 - *Physical: life and property*
 - *Social: authority and behavior*
 - + *Freedom*
 - *Freedom TO*
 - *Freedom FROM*
 - + *Equality*

- *Political: one person, one vote*
- + *Social:*
 - *Equality of opportunity*
 - *Equality of outcome*
- + B. Presenting quantitative data

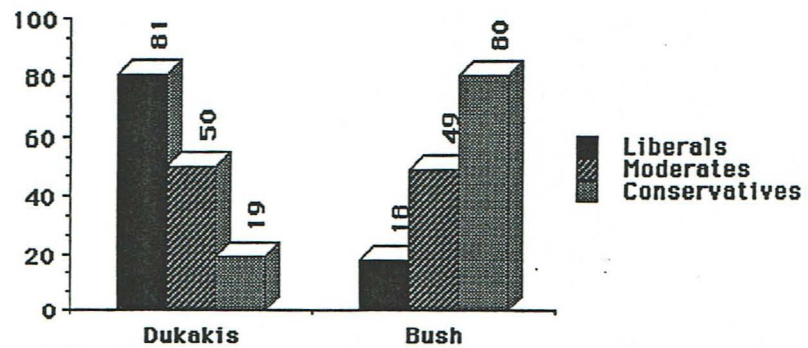
- Voting turnout

**Voting Turnout in Presidential Elections Over Time
as a Percentage of the Voting Age Population**

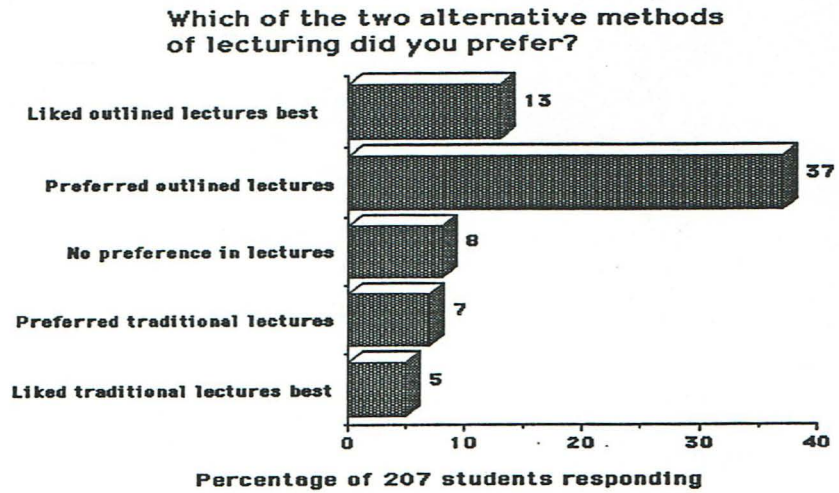


- Voting choice

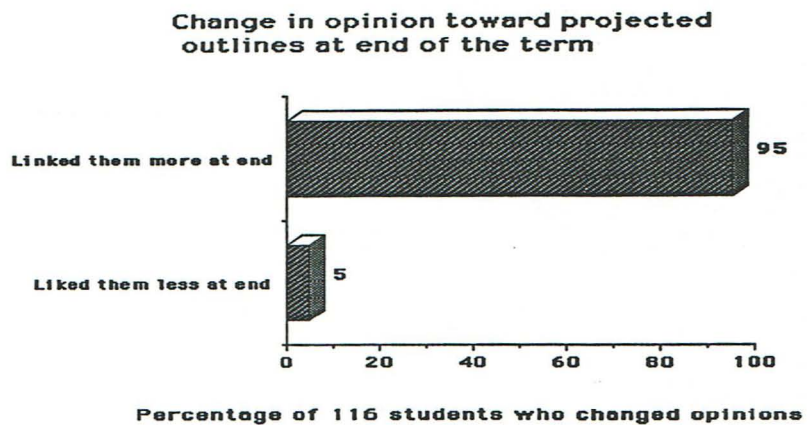
CBS/New York Times survey of voter choices in 1988



- + VI. How do students like projected outlines?
 - + A. In 1990, I alternated teaching methods
 - Blackboard & traditional talk one day
 - Projected outlines using MORE the next
 - + B. Response to survey at end of class
 - Students preferred the outlines

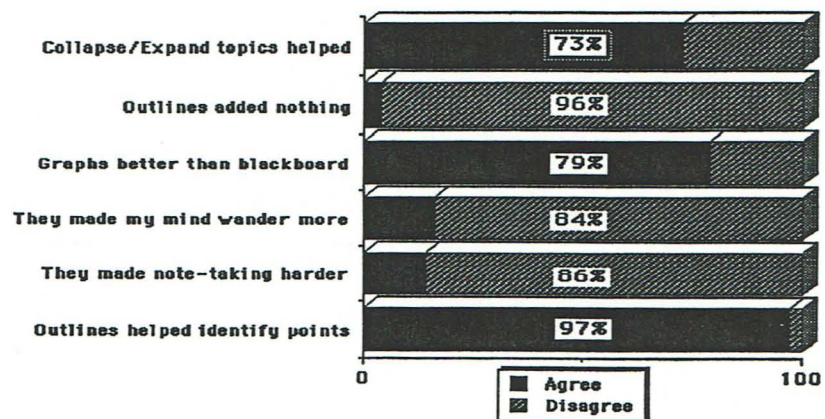


- + But students had to adjust to them
 - 55% changed opinions during the term
 - Most changed favorably

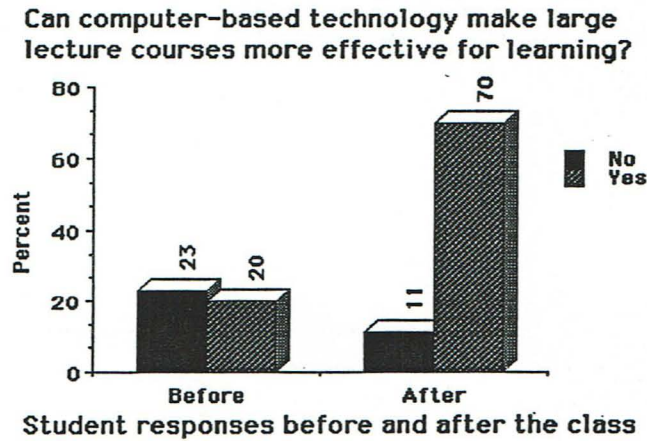


- What students liked about outlines

Student agreement with statements about the outlines

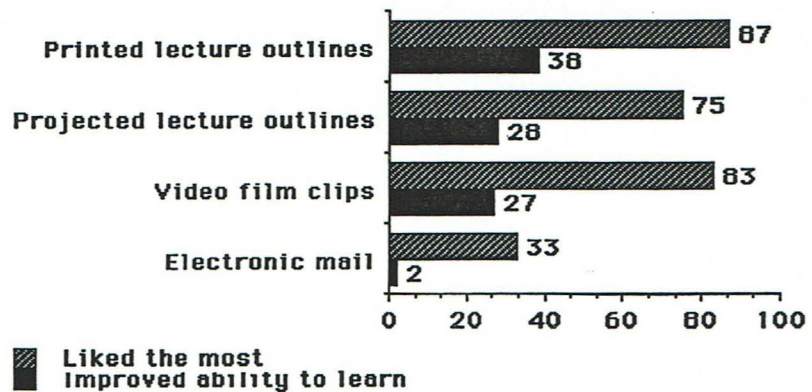


- + VII. Does it make a difference?
 - + A. Positive Findings
 - Before and after survey



- Reactions to each innovation

How much students "liked" electronic processes and how much they helped learning



- + B. Negative Findings
 - Because all students take better lecture notes,
 - + students can rely on someone else's notes.
 - If students can miss class with MORE confidence,
 - + MORE students will miss class.
 - So, student attendance suffers somewhat.
- + C. Conclusion of teaching with computers
 - + It raises pedagogical issues
 - + Issues like declining attendance
 - + This sensitizes teachers to their craft
 - Ultimately makes for better teachers