



ONTASK:

**A LEARNING ANALYTICS TOOL
TO PROVIDE PERSONALIZED
FEEDBACK TO INCREASE
STUDENT
MOTIVATION AND SUCCESS**

**SANDRA BROWN: LAND AND FOOD SYSTEMS
SILVIA BARTOLIC: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**August 6, 2021
LFS Lunch and Learn Series**

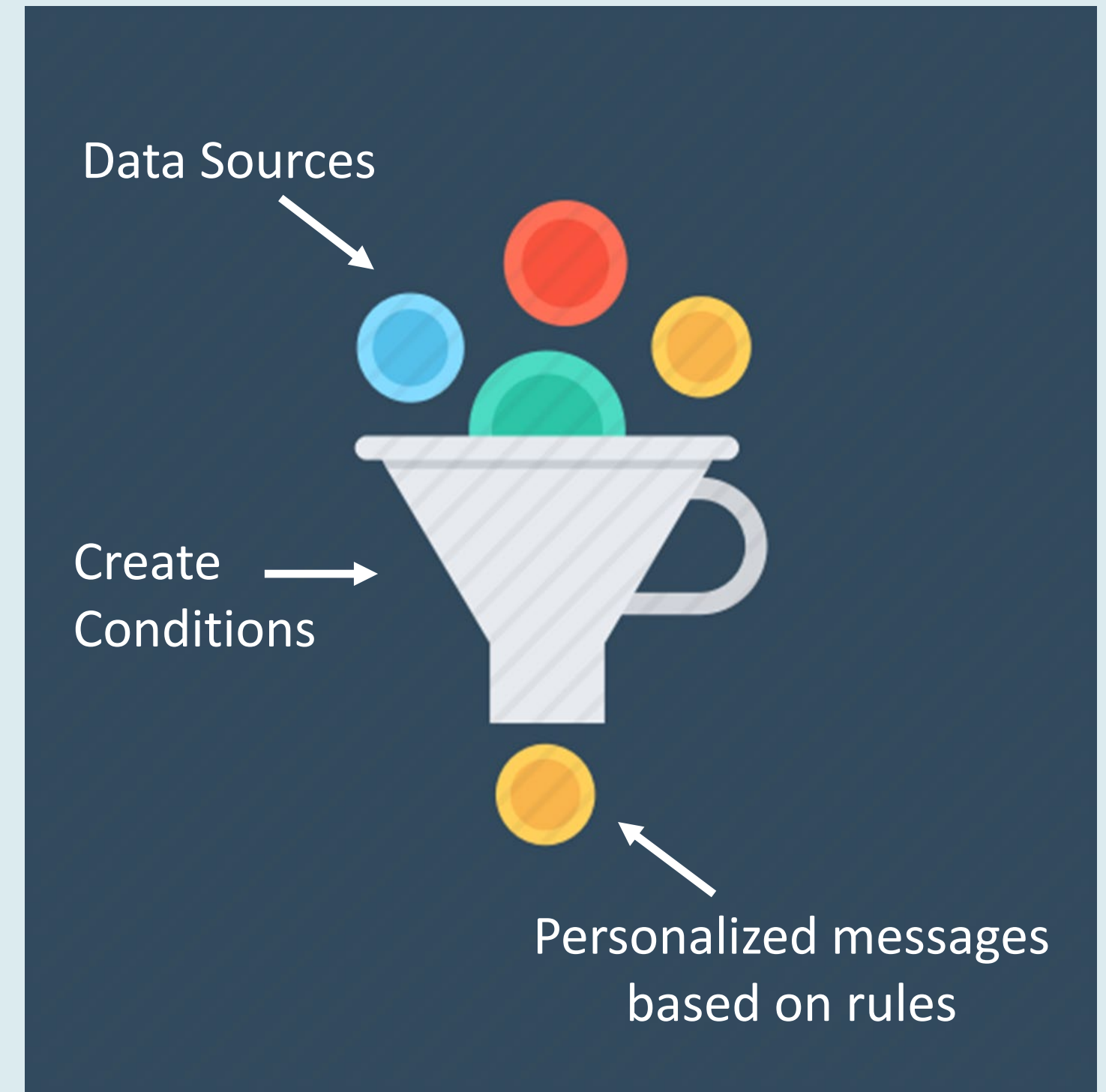


THE CHALLENGE

- With increasing class size and student diversity in many higher education institutions, personalized feedback to students can be difficult to provide due to limited time and resources available to instructors
- Based on nudge theory, where the use of reinforcement and indirect suggestions can change behavior through encouragement, Fritz (2017) claims we can use learning analytic data to help nudge students to take responsibility for their learning



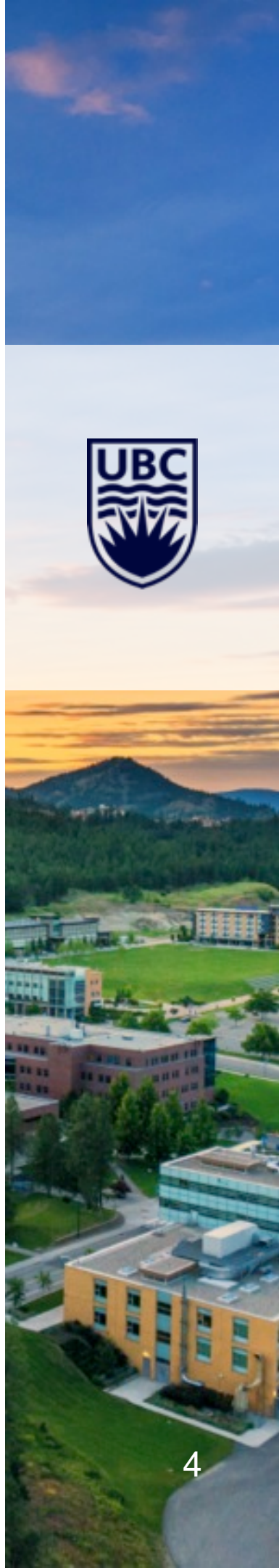
- CAN WE GIVE STUDENTS PERSONALIZED FEEDBACK, AT SCALE?
- CAN WE HELP STUDENTS STAY MOTIVATED?
- CAN WE HELP STUDENTS ESTABLISH BETTER BEHAVIORAL AND LEARNING STRATEGIES?





APBI 200 – INTRODUCTION TO SOIL SCIENCE

Sandra Brown, Instructor, Land and Food Systems



Feedback structure

Context:

- 8 labs & 3 problem sets
- 2 midterms exams
- 9 office hours / week
- 4 PASS sessions / week
- Online discussion forum (Q&A)

- 2 messages:
- 1 after 1st midterm
- 1 after 2nd midterm



MESSAGE 1

Rule set:

- Overall grade average ≥ 80 , 70-79, 60-69 etc.
“great job” ... “good job” ...
“performance to date raises some concern”
- Missing a lab or problem set grade
- Average on assignments > midterm

Dear XXX,

Now that we have completed two labs, a problem set and our first midterm exam, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some feedback. Here is a summary of your progress so far:

Labs: 78%

Problem sets: 82%

Midterm: 62%

Good job on completing assignments and on the first midterm. This course has a lot of opportunities to gain marks, and I would encourage you to continue on with what has been successful for you in the first part of the course. As the term gets busier, I encourage you to take advantage of TA office hours, PASS sessions and the wiki discussion forum.

We also noticed that your midterm exam mark was low relative to how you have been doing on labs and problem sets. While we encourage you to work and study in teams, it is important that you work independently when writing up labs and problem sets, so that you are fully grasping concepts. You may want to try PASS sessions - they are designed specifically for studying concepts. Keep on working!

If you have any questions, please free to email me (sandra.brown@ubc.ca) or drop by my office hour, Wednesday 10-11 AM.

Sandra and the entire APBI teaching team

MESSAGE 2

Rule set:

- Overall grade average ≥ 80 ,
70-79, 60-69 etc.
“great job” ... “good job” ...
“performance to date
raises some concern”
- Missing a lab or problem set
grade
- Trends in assignment or
midterm grades
- Reminders

Dear XXX,

Now that we have completed five labs, two problem sets and both midterm exams, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with updated feedback. Your marks to date are as follows:

Average for Labs: 57%

Average for Problem Sets: 76%

Average for midterms: 69%

Good work on course components to date. One problem set and two more labs to go; plus bonus assignments. I would encourage you to complete the final few assignments and to take advantage of the bonus assignments to help raise your lab mark. Our third in-class practice exam session will be on March 27th and is designed specifically for the final exam. Our records indicate that you did not complete a lab or problem set. Please check the canvas gradebook, and if a grade is missing, please bring your marked assignment to Sandra.

Your mark on midterm #2 dropped relative to midterm #1. There are a few more PASS sessions left this term. They are designed specifically to help with study skills, and I encourage you to attend if you can.

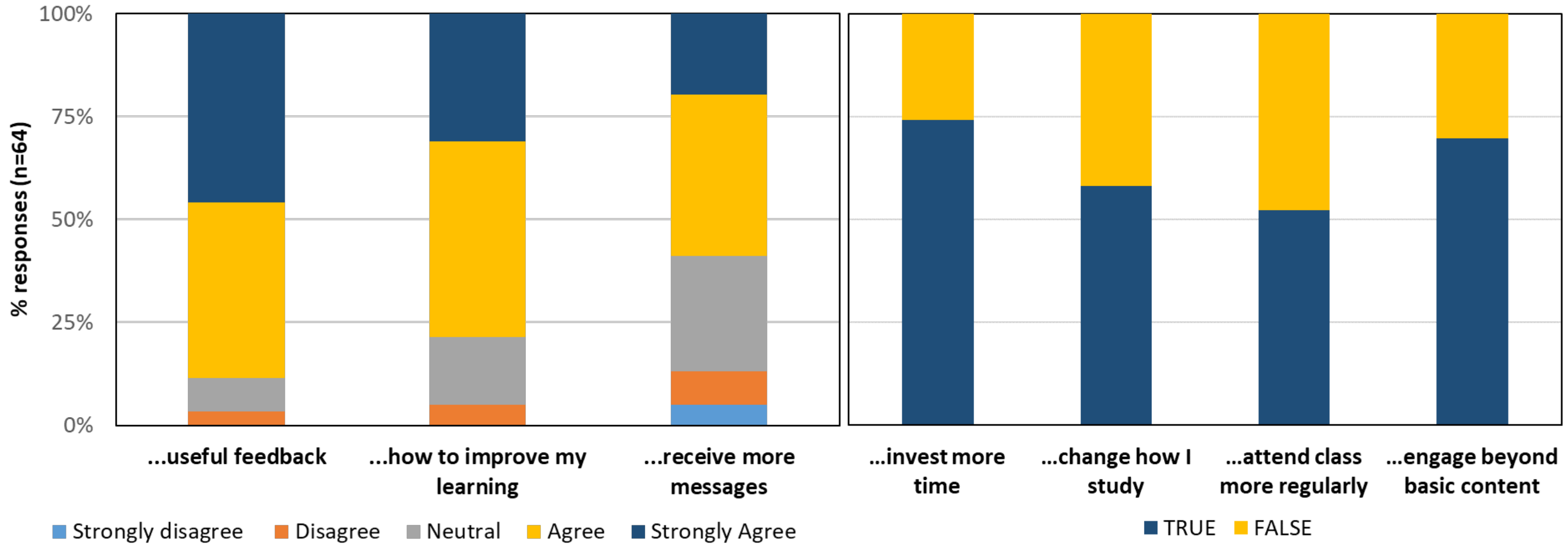
A review session will be held before the final exam. Date and room will be posted on the discussion forum (on the course wiki) as soon as the room booking is confirmed. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at Sandra.Brown@ubc.ca or drop by my office hour. Keep up the good work!

Sandra and the entire APBI teaching team

STUDENT FEEDBACK



APBI 200 - On Task student feedback



How OnTask might support communication with your students?

