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Collaboration with Consultants Drives Intrinsic Motivation

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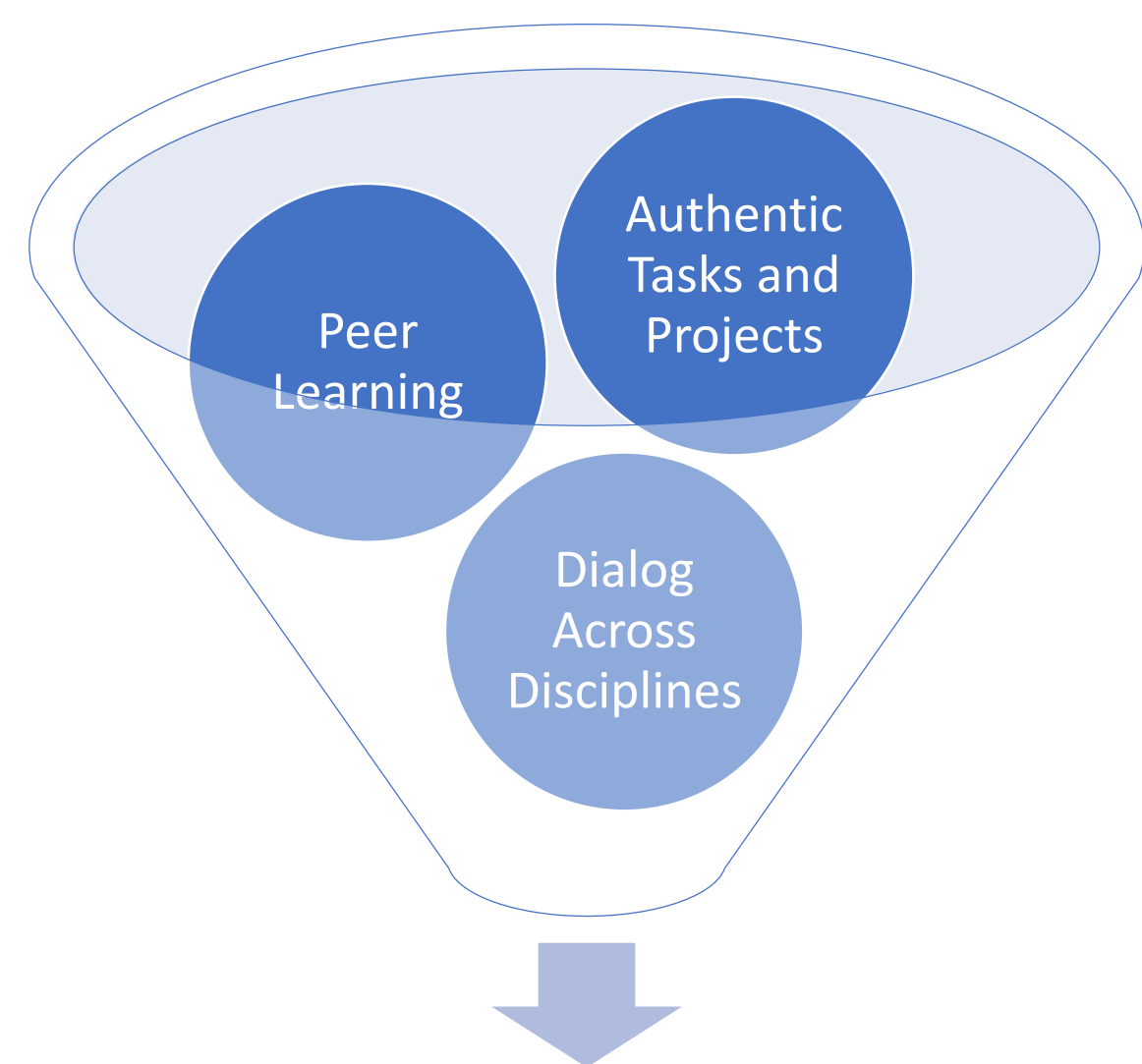
Collaboration with Consultants Drives Intrinsic Motivation

Paul W. Bible and Kevin Rudynski

Computer Science / Mathematics + Art and Design



The Idea



Intrinsic Motivation

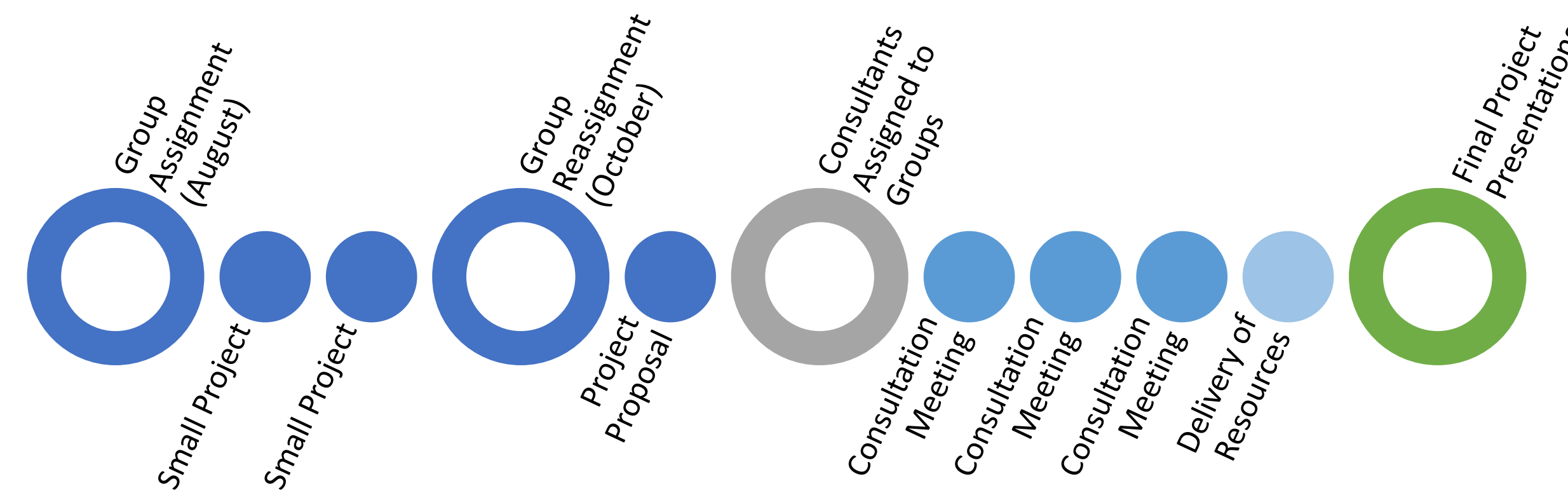
“Student’s motivation generates, directs, and sustains what they do to learn.” -- Ambrose et al. 2010 *How learning works*.

Intrinsic interest motivates students to apply effort to tasks in which they see value. Our experimental collaboration used a consultant-client relationship to create an authentic project experience.

Principles at work

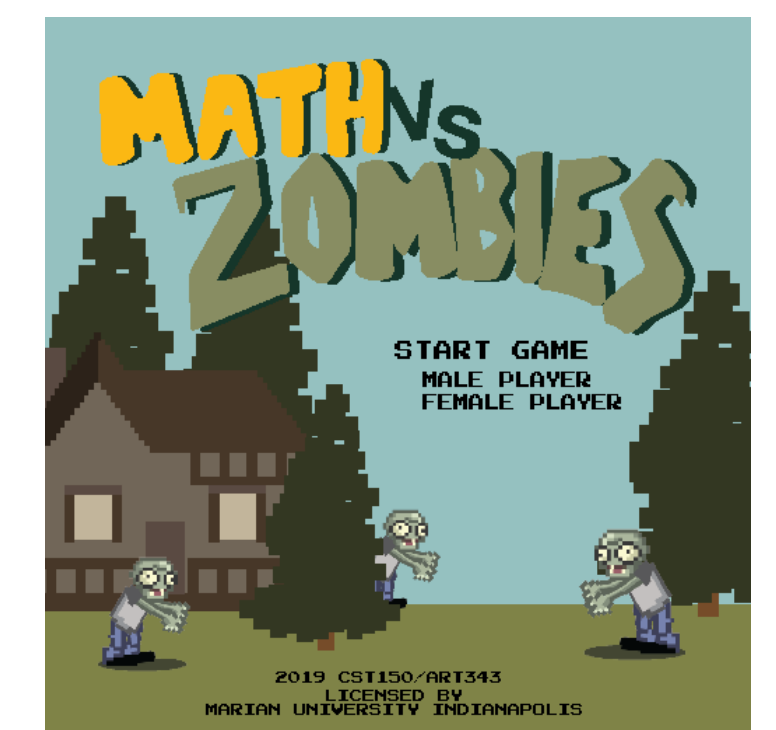
- Authentic tasks modeling the real world.
- Peer learning with long-term set groups.
- Guided collaboration across disciplines.

The Application



As a major project, the students of CST 150 Intro to Programming collaborated with the students from ART 343 Design for Print Media to create educational video games aimed at elementary school children.

The Results



High quality projects



Positive Student Feedback

“... having the consultant was a positive factor considering we knew our artwork was going to be quality and ready by the deadline set”

“The art consultant idea was genius. Helped us focus our project, prioritize [what] was important, and create a much more appealing final project than we could have done alone on our own.”

“Overall the consultant helped us refine our topic and made us prioritize. This allowed us to finish on time and have a complete game.”

The consultant model



Student teams interact with a consultant that models the real-world customer-client relationship.



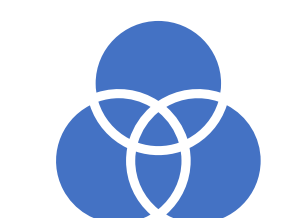
Consultants help client groups to focus their goals, target an audience, and refine project design.



Mutual accountability around deadlines and responsibilities keep clients and consultants on track.



Students engage each others' strengths within the diverse disciplines fostering a sense of professional worth.



The final projects are more than the sum of their parts. Students take pride the quality of the work.