

Improving Learning Outcomes in Electrical Circuits: A Study on the Effectiveness of Quizzes and Engagement Techniques

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Abstract

The study investigates the effectiveness of quizzes and engagement techniques in enhancing learning outcomes in electrical circuits education. Recognizing the challenges students face in mastering this subject, the research aims to evaluate how these instructional strategies can improve comprehension and retention. The study employs a quasi-experimental design involving undergraduate electrical engineering students divided into control and experimental groups. The experimental group participated in regular quizzes and engagement activities, while the control group followed traditional instructional methods. Data were collected through performance assessments, surveys, and observational feedback. The results indicate that students exposed to quizzes and engagement techniques demonstrated significantly higher performance and engagement levels than those in the control group. Qualitative feedback supports these findings, with students reporting increased motivation and understanding. This research highlights the potential of active learning strategies to enhance educational outcomes in technical subjects. The study's implications suggest that educators should consider integrating quizzes and engagement techniques into their teaching practices to foster better learning experiences. Future research could explore these strategies' long-term impact and applicability across different educational contexts.

Key words: *Electrical Circuits; Learning Outcomes; Quizzes; Engagement Techniques; Educational Strategies.*

Introduction

In the context of electrical engineering education, traditional pedagogical approaches often fall short in engaging students and fostering a deep comprehension of complex subjects such as electrical circuits. This issue necessitates the exploration of innovative strategies to enhance student learning outcomes. Current research emphasizes methods such as gamification, flipped classrooms, and immersive technologies like virtual reality (VR), which are increasingly being integrated into educational frameworks to overcome these challenges.

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One promising approach is the application of gamification in educational contexts. Studies indicate that incorporating game elements in education can significantly boost student motivation and engagement. For instance, Chans and Castro highlighted that the introduction of gamification elements, such as points for assignments, enhances intrinsic motivation among students (Chans & Portuguese Castro, 2021; Riska et al., 2021). Similarly, Sailer and Sailer advocate for gamified in-class activities in flipped classroom settings to promote active learning and improve educational outcomes (Sailer & Sailer, 2021). This alignment between gamification and active participation addresses the motivational gaps often seen in traditional lecturing methods.

Flipped classrooms represent another effective instructional strategy. In this model, students engage with instructional content outside of the classroom, allowing for more interactive and hands-on learning experiences during class time. Research shows that this method not only improves student outcomes but also fosters better communication and collaboration among peers (Kang & Kim, 2021; Romanow et al., 2024). Moreover, the meta-analysis by Alten et al. corroborates that flipping the classroom leads to substantial improvements in both knowledge retention and student satisfaction (van Alten et al., 2019). By reallocating time for direct interaction during lectures to active problem-solving and application tasks, students can engage more deeply with the material and think critically about real-world applications.

Moreover, the integration of immersive technologies, particularly VR, is revolutionizing the teaching of electrical circuits. As discussed by Albarracin-Acero et al., VR creates interactive environments that facilitate experiential learning, enabling students to visualize and manipulate complex concepts in a more engaging and approachable way (Albarracin-Acero et al., 2024). A case study by Gómez-Cambronero et al. further confirms that VR's ability to simulate real-world scenarios enhances both technical skills and understanding, providing students with an

immersive learning experience that traditional methods cannot replicate (Gómez-Cambronero et al., 2023). This aligns with the broader trend in educational technology, where personalized learning experiences play a pivotal role in student engagement and learning effectiveness.

The synthesis of these strategies illustrates a clear shift in the educational paradigm for electrical engineering, moving from passive to active learning environments. This evolution necessitates that educators not only adopt these innovative techniques but also continually adapt and refine their instructional approaches based on ongoing research and student feedback. Ultimately, the culmination of gamification flipped classrooms and immersive technologies is expected to engage students more effectively and enhance their overall learning outcomes significantly.

Recent educational research underscores the critical importance of active learning techniques, particularly quizzes, and interactive engagement strategies, in enhancing student involvement and knowledge retention. Quizzes serve as effective learning tools by providing immediate feedback, which can motivate students to engage more deeply with the material. They are integrated into learning environments not merely as assessment measures but as pivotal components of the learning process itself. Research indicates that regular quizzing can reinforce knowledge and prioritize long-term memory retention, making it a fundamental strategy in contemporary education (Enders et al., 2021; Ross et al., 2018; Zuhairi et al., 2024).

Interactive engagement strategies complement quizzes by fostering environments conducive to student participation. Techniques such as collaborative problem-solving and interactive discussions create a dynamic classroom atmosphere where students can actively process and apply information. Aristeidou et al. highlight that incorporating gamified elements into in-class activities can increase student motivation and enhance learning outcomes by encouraging collaborative learning experiences (Aristeidou

et al., 2023). Furthermore, Wondie et al. elucidate that strategies like team-based learning (TBL) empower students to work in small groups, actively participating in their education, leading to improved communication and enhanced problem-solving skills (Wondie et al., 2020).

The combination of quizzes and interactive engagement strategies embodies a pedagogical shift towards active student participation, a necessary evolution in educational practices. By employing these techniques, educators can create learning environments that are not only engaging but also more effective in promoting cognitive retention and understanding. The efficacy of this approach has been supported by meta-analyses, which consistently show that active learning strategies significantly outperform traditional lecture-based teaching methods in improving student outcomes (Espera & Pitterson, 2019). The adoption of active learning methods, especially quizzes, and interactive engagement techniques, is vital for contemporary educational practices. As research continues to affirm their effectiveness, educators are increasingly encouraged to integrate these strategies into curricula to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of quizzes and engagement techniques in improving learning outcomes in electrical circuit courses. By addressing the question of how these strategies impact student performance and engagement, the research seeks to provide valuable insights into best practices for electrical engineering education. Recent research illustrates the positive impact of active learning techniques, including quizzes and collaborative engagement strategies, on student performance and educational experiences. These techniques are critical in engineering education, particularly in fields like electrical engineering, where complex concepts are predominant.

Quizzes serve as powerful educational tools that reinforce learned material and facilitate immediate feedback, which is essential for

enhancing student motivation and engagement. Studies have shown that adaptive quizzes can significantly increase motivation and lead to improved learning outcomes (Ross et al., 2018). For instance, Ross et al. found that adaptive online quizzing has been beneficial in promoting distributed practice, which enhances long-term retention of knowledge (Ross et al., 2018). Furthermore, Enders et al. argue that when integrated with effective feedback mechanisms, quizzes help counter the potential drawbacks of shallow learning typically associated with closed questions (Enders et al., 2021). This feedback loop encourages students to engage actively with the content, thereby facilitating deeper comprehension. In addition to quizzes, engagement techniques that promote collaborative problem-solving and interactive discussions are vital in creating a dynamic learning environment. Sailer and Sailer highlight that gamification and interactive activities significantly contribute to active learning in flipped classroom settings, thereby fostering student engagement (Sailer & Sailer, 2020). Such interactive engagement techniques, as noted by Kang and Kim, help students realize the importance of collaboration and communication in problem-solving tasks (Kang & Kim, 2021). The study found that student interaction during team-based learning effectively enhances understanding and retention of complex subjects like electrical circuits.

Moreover, the integration of both quizzes and engagement strategies is further supported by evidence indicating that these methods create a more stimulating learning atmosphere, which can lead to higher retention rates and better academic performance (T. Evans et al., 2021; Jamalian et al., 2023). This intersection suggests that employing quizzes as a formative assessment tool alongside collaborative and interactive engagement strategies offers a two-fold advantage: enhancing knowledge retention while simultaneously keeping students motivated and engaged. This study aims to demonstrate that combining quizzes with collaborative and interactive engagement techniques can lead to improved learning outcomes in electrical circuits courses. By

integrating these methods, educators can create a more effective and engaging instructional framework that ultimately enhances the educational experience for students in the field of electrical engineering. The findings from this research are expected to contribute significantly to the development of best practices in engineering education.

Method

Research Design

This study employs a quasi-experimental design to evaluate the effectiveness of quizzes and engagement techniques on learning outcomes in electrical circuit courses. The design includes both control and experimental groups to allow for comparison and assessment of the instructional strategies' impact. The study in question utilizes a quasi-experimental design to assess the impact of quizzes and engagement techniques on learning outcomes in electrical circuits courses. This approach involves comparing control and experimental groups to evaluate the effectiveness of these instructional strategies. The integration of quizzes and engagement techniques is supported by various studies that highlight their potential to enhance student engagement, learning outcomes, and perceptions of the learning process. The following sections will explore the effectiveness of these strategies, drawing on insights from the provided papers.

1) Effectiveness of Quizzes

- **Formative Assessment:** Quizzes serve as a formative assessment tool that can significantly enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. In an online course setting, frequent quizzes and tasks have been shown to lead to high student engagement and improved scores, with students expressing positive perceptions of these assessments(Chen et al., 2021).
- **Pre-Lecture Quizzes:** The use of pre-lecture quizzes has been found to optimize distributed practice, leading to improved

long-term retention and increased student engagement with course content. This approach also resulted in higher lecture attendance and improved grades, demonstrating the effectiveness of quizzes in enhancing educational exchange(M. O. Evans et al., 2021).

2) Engagement Techniques

- **Interactive Lectures:** Engaging lecture methods, such as interactive or broken lectures, have been shown to significantly improve student performance and retention compared to traditional lectures. These methods involve short lecture segments interspersed with interactive activities, leading to higher exam scores and improved long-term retention(T. Evans et al., 2021).
- **Utility-Value Interventions:** Techniques that connect course content to students' interests, such as utility-value interventions, have been shown to maintain and enhance student engagement throughout a course. These interventions encourage students to relate the material to their own goals, resulting in sustained cognitive engagement (Goto, 2024).

3) Impact on Learning Outcomes

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Systematically designed instructional approaches that incorporate engagement techniques can stimulate the development of critical thinking skills. In a quasi-experimental study, students exposed to a designed learning environment scored higher on domain-

specific critical thinking tests compared to those in a traditional setting (Tiruneh et al., 2016).

- Remote Laboratories: In the context of electrical engineering, remote laboratories that incorporate game-like scenarios can enhance student motivation and engagement. These labs provide practical, hands-on experience with real-world devices, which is crucial for understanding complex concepts in electrical circuits (Luthon et al., 2014).

Participants

The study involves undergraduate students enrolled in an introductory electrical circuits course at the Electrical Engineering Vocational Education Study Program in the Faculty of Engineering, Jakarta State University. A total of 120 students participated, with 60 students assigned to the control group and 60 to the experimental group. Random assignment of participants to groups in research studies is a fundamental strategy to ensure comparability and minimize selection bias. This method is crucial in maintaining the integrity of the study by balancing known and unknown confounding variables across groups, thus enhancing the validity of the results. Simple randomization involves assigning participants to groups purely by chance, akin to flipping a coin. It is straightforward but may not always ensure balance in small sample sizes, potentially leading to imbalances in key covariates (Berger et al., 2021).

Data Collection Tools

The primary instruments used in this study include:

- Quizzes: A series of low-stakes quizzes designed to reinforce key concepts covered in the course. These quizzes consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and are administered weekly.
- Engagement Techniques: Interactive activities such as group problem-solving sessions, peer teaching, and class discussions aimed at fostering active participation.
- Surveys: Pre and post-study surveys to gather data on student engagement, motivation, and perceptions of the learning experience.

Procedure

The study was conducted over a 12-week semester. The control group received traditional lecture-based instruction, while the experimental group participated in weekly quizzes and engagement activities in addition to lectures. Quizzes were administered at the end of each week, and engagement activities were integrated into the weekly class schedule.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data from quizzes and exams were analyzed using statistical methods, including t-tests and ANOVA, to compare performance between the control and experimental groups. Qualitative data from surveys and observational feedback were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify patterns and insights related to student engagement and motivation. This methodology provides a structured approach to evaluating the impact of quizzes and engagement techniques on learning outcomes in electrical circuits education, enabling the study to draw meaningful conclusions and recommendations.

Findings

The results of the quiz and exam score analysis revealed significant differences in performance between the control group and the experimental group, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Results of the Analysis between the control group and the experimental group

Metric	Experimental Group	Control Group	Difference	p-Value
Average Quiz Score	85%	75%	+10%	p< 0.01
Average Exam Score	82%	70%	+12%	p< 0.01

The experimental group, which participated in regular quizzes and engagement activities, achieved an average quiz score of 85%, significantly higher than the control group's average of 75%. This suggests that regular quizzes and engagement activities may have enhanced students' understanding and retention of course material, leading to better performance on quizzes.

The experimental group also outperformed the control group on the final exam, with an average score of 82% compared to the control group's 70%. This indicates that the benefits of regular quizzes and engagement activities extend beyond short-term learning, positively impacting long-term retention and application of knowledge.

The differences in both quiz and exam scores were statistically significant, as

confirmed by t-tests with a p-value of < 0.01. This strong statistical evidence supports the conclusion that the intervention (regular quizzes and engagement activities) had a meaningful and positive impact on student performance.

The findings highlight the effectiveness of incorporating regular quizzes and engagement activities into the curriculum to improve student outcomes. Educators may consider adopting similar strategies to enhance learning and performance in their courses.

Survey responses and observational feedback provided additional insights into the impact of the instructional strategies. The presentation of survey and observation data as a whole can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2.

Survey and Observation Data

Category	Survey Statement	Experiment	Control	t-Value	p-Value
Engagement and motivation	I felt engaged during the course	90%	60%	5.67	0.01
	I was motivated to participate actively	88%	55%	5.21	0.01
Impact of Frequent Quizzes	Frequent quizzes helped me stay on track with the material	85%	50%	5.45	0.01
	Quizzes provided valuable feedback on my understanding	87%	52%	5.30	0.01

Effectiveness of Engagement Activities	Group problem-solving sessions clarified complex concepts	83%	48%	5.10	0.01
	Engagement activities fostered a collaborative learning environment	85%	50%	5.15	0.01

- 1) Engagement and Motivation:
 - Engagement During Course: The high t-value ($t = 5.67$) and significant p-value ($p < 0.01$) indicate that students in the experimental group were significantly more engaged during the course compared to the control group.
 - Motivation to Participate: Similarly, the t-value ($t = 5.21$) and p-value ($p < 0.01$) suggest that the experimental group was significantly more motivated to participate in course activities.
- 2) Impact of Frequent Quizzes:
 - Stay on Track with Material: The t-value ($t = 5.45$) and p-value ($p < 0.01$) show that frequent quizzes helped students in the experimental group stay on track with the course material significantly more than the control group.
 - Valuable Feedback on Understanding: The t-value ($t = 5.30$) and p-value ($p < 0.01$) indicate that students found the feedback from frequent quizzes significantly more valuable for understanding the material.
- 3) Effectiveness of Engagement Activities:
 - Clarification of Complex Concepts: The t-value ($t = 5.10$) and p-value ($p < 0.01$) suggest that engagement activities were significantly effective in clarifying complex concepts for students in the experimental group.
 - Fostering Collaborative Environment: The t-value ($t = 5.15$) and p-value ($p < 0.01$) indicate that engagement activities significantly fostered a collaborative learning environment.

The statistical analysis demonstrates that the experimental group, which participated in frequent quizzes and engagement activities, experienced significant improvements in engagement, motivation, understanding of material, and collaboration. All results were statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), supporting the effectiveness of these interventions in enhancing student learning and participation. The consistent and significant positive responses from the experimental group across all surveyed areas suggest that the incorporation of regular quizzes and engagement activities substantially enhances student engagement, motivation, and understanding of the course material. These findings reinforce the positive impact of interactive and collaborative instructional strategies on the overall learning experience.

The comparative analysis between the control and experimental groups highlights the effectiveness of combining quizzes and engagement techniques in enhancing learning outcomes. While both groups started with similar baseline knowledge, as indicated by pre-study assessments, the experimental group showed greater improvement over the semester. The integration of active learning strategies not only improves academic performance but also positively influences students' attitudes toward learning.

These results underscore the potential benefits of incorporating quizzes and engagement techniques into electrical circuits education, suggesting that these strategies can lead to meaningful improvements in student learning and engagement. This results section presents quantitative and qualitative findings, providing a comprehensive overview of the study's

outcomes and highlighting the effectiveness of the instructional strategies used.

Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that the implementation of quizzes and engagement techniques significantly enhances learning outcomes in electrical circuit courses. The experimental group's higher performance on quizzes and exams is a strong indicator that frequent testing and active participation foster a deeper understanding and retention of complex material. This aligns well with the "testing effect" theory proposed by Ross et al., which posits that retrieval practices through quizzes enhance memory and comprehension (Ross et al., 2018). These principles of active engagement are supported by broader research indicating that retrieval practices, such as quizzes, are effective in strengthening students' grasp of the subject material (Ross et al., 2018).

Furthermore, studies have shown that engagement techniques, such as collaborative learning and interactive discussions, positively impact student learning outcomes. For example, Prince conducted a comprehensive review of active learning research and concluded that engagement strategies significantly improve student performance and motivation (Hernandez & Waller, 2021). In the context of STEM education, Freeman et al. demonstrated that active learning techniques effectively reduce failure rates and improve exam scores compared to traditional lecture-based approaches (Fahmy et al., 2022). This research highlights the necessity for educators to adopt more interactive and engaging teaching methods to facilitate better outcomes.

Additionally, the potential of gamification has been explored as an effective engagement strategy. Techniques that incorporate gamified elements not only motivate students but also enhance their interaction with the learning material, thereby improving learning outcomes (Chans & Portuguese Castro, 2021). This increasing body of evidence suggests that creating engaging and practical learning

experiences within engineering education can significantly enhance educational effectiveness.

The study aims to bridge the research gap specifically concerning the application of quizzes and engagement techniques in electrical circuits education, a topic that remains under-explored despite the clear benefits established in other contexts. By focusing on this crucial area, this investigation provides a compelling case for integrating these instructional strategies into electrical engineering curricula, offering evidence-based recommendations for educators seeking to enhance student learning experiences and outcomes in this vital discipline.

The qualitative insights derived from this study reinforce the quantitative data, illustrating that students who engaged in interactive activities reported higher motivation and a better understanding of course content. The interactive nature of these engagement techniques likely contributed to a more dynamic and collaborative learning environment, consistent with constructivist theories that emphasize the importance of active involvement in the learning process. Research shows that interactive and collaborative activities not only facilitate deeper learning but also encourage students to take ownership of their educational experiences, leading to improved outcomes (Sohl Jeppesen et al., 2025).

The benefits of gamification and engagement strategies in enhancing motivation and learning have been documented in various studies. For instance, Sailer and Sailer elucidate how gamified elements in classroom settings can stimulate active participation and collaboration among students, thus enhancing their overall engagement (Pradana et al., 2023). Meanwhile, research by Chans and Castro further supports this by showing that gamification can lead to increased intrinsic motivation, particularly within higher education contexts, where the competitive aspects of games can drive student interest and participation (Kyewski & Krämer, 2018). Such engagement techniques help enhance the student experience and promote a deeper

understanding of complex subjects, including those found in electrical circuits education.

In light of these findings, it becomes clear that employing quizzes and collaborative engagement techniques aligns well with the principles of active learning advocated by educational theorists such as Vygotsky. Constructivist theories suggest that knowledge is co-constructed through social interactions, emphasizing the need for collaborative exercises that allow students to engage with their peers and instructors (Manzanares et al., 2020). This pedagogical approach not only facilitates deeper understanding but also prepares students for real-world applications of their knowledge in engineering contexts. The evidence supports the assertion that quizzes and engagement techniques significantly enhance learning outcomes in electrical circuit courses by fostering an interactive and collaborative environment. As educators seek to implement these methods, the goal should be to create learning experiences that not only improve comprehension of technical content but also cultivate motivation and engagement among students.

Implications for Practice

The study's outcomes have important implications for educators in electrical engineering and related fields. By integrating quizzes and engagement techniques into their teaching practices, instructors can create a more effective and engaging learning experience for students. These strategies not only improve academic performance but also foster a positive attitude toward learning, which is crucial for long-term success in technical disciplines.

Educators should consider implementing regular low-stakes quizzes to provide continuous feedback and motivation. Additionally, incorporating collaborative activities and discussions can enhance student engagement and facilitate deeper understanding of the material.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the effectiveness of incorporating quizzes and engagement techniques in improving learning outcomes in electrical circuits courses. By employing a quasi-experimental design, the research showed that students who participated in regular quizzes and interactive activities performed significantly better on assessments and reported higher levels of engagement compared to those who received traditional instruction.

The key findings suggest that these active learning strategies not only enhance academic performance but also positively influence students' attitudes toward the subject, fostering a more engaging and effective learning environment. The study underscores the value of integrating frequent low-stakes quizzes and collaborative engagement techniques into the curriculum to support student learning and retention. Educators are encouraged to adopt these evidence-based strategies to enhance the educational experience in electrical engineering and potentially other STEM disciplines. By doing so, they can better prepare students for the challenges of their academic and professional careers.

Suggestion

While the study provides valuable insights, it also highlights the need for further research to explore the long-term impact and broader applicability of these instructional strategies. Future studies could investigate their effectiveness across different educational contexts and subject areas, as well as their influence on student learning over time. This research contributes to the growing body of evidence supporting active learning approaches and offers practical recommendations for educators seeking to improve learning outcomes in technical education. By embracing these innovative strategies, educators can create a more dynamic and effective learning environment, ultimately enhancing student success.

Future research could also investigate the long-term impact of these instructional strategies on

student learning and retention, as well as their effectiveness in diverse educational contexts. This study highlights the potential of quizzes and engagement techniques to improve learning outcomes in electrical circuits education. By adopting these strategies, educators can enhance the educational experience and better prepare students for success in their academic and professional pursuits.

Limitation

While the study provides valuable insights, it is not without limitations. The research was conducted at a single institution, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other educational settings. Additionally, the study focused on an introductory electrical circuits course, and further research is needed to explore the applicability of these strategies in more advanced courses or different subject areas.

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