



# Exploring Technology- Enhanced Active Learning in Physics Teacher Education Part 1/2

Supported by UBC Teaching and Learning  
Enhancement Fundn2012-2014

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The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

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AAPT 2014 Orlando, Florida

# Modeling Active Engagement in Teacher Education

1. What are your **reasons for choosing active engagement pedagogies** in physics teacher education courses?
2. How do you know if these pedagogies are **having a positive impact** on teacher-candidates?
3. What is the **role of technology** in this process?

# Technology-Enhanced Active Engagement

PeerWise

EDCP357 (Winter 1, 2013)

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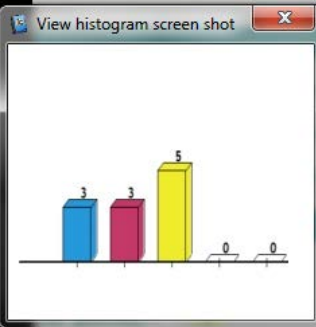

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PW&PI

iGrader

### The Monty Hall Problem: Let Us Make a Deal

- A. Stick with the original choice
- B. Swap doors
- C. It doesn't matter

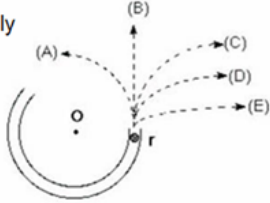


Option	Count
A	3
B	3
C	5
Other	0

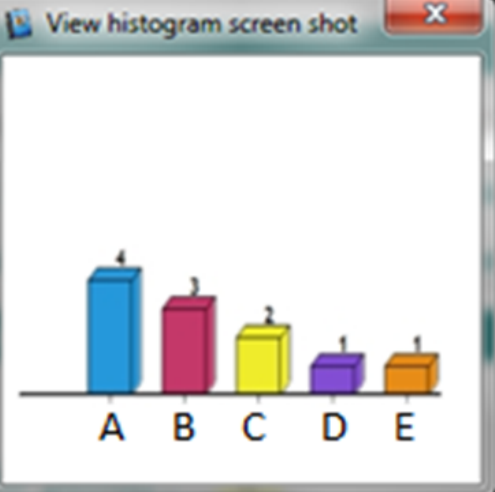
### Question

A ball travels through the circular track until point  $r$ , at which point it leaves the channel to travel across a frictionless floor. Assume a bird's eye view, and that all motion is in the horizontal plane.

Which path will the ball most closely follow after it exits the channel?



(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)



Option	Count
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
E	1

# Research-Based Objectives

Investigate the effect of Active Engagement (AE) on teacher-candidates' (TCs') epistemologies

Explore a possible mechanism for AE pedagogy

Model AE in the context of the course content

# Course-Based Objectives

Experience learning science through AE

Value conceptual knowledge

Evaluate/develop resources that match TCs' values

Create a long-term connection with UBC community

# Math & Science Teaching & Learning through Technology



a place of mind



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## Teacher Education

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CREATE

CREATE  
Community to Reimagine Educational Alternatives for Teacher Education

CREATE is a faculty-wide initiative established by [Dr. Rita Irwin](#), Associate Dean of Teacher Education programs, to inspire innovations in teacher education at UBC.

Seminars are held in [Neville Scarfe, Room 310](#) from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

### Presentation about MSTLTT Project

On October 16th Dr. Marina Milner-Bolotin was invited to present a seminar to faculty and students at UBC Teacher Education Program

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MATH & SCIENCE TEACHING & LEARNING  
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



# Navigating the Resource



a place of mind



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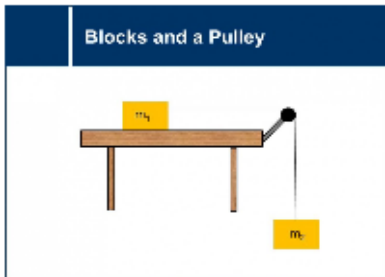
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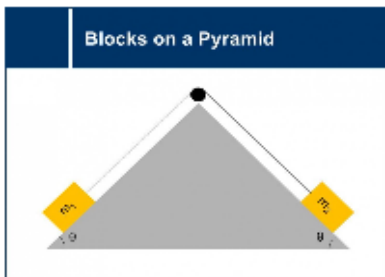
## FORCES



Exploration of free body diagrams, two body acceleration, and Newton's law through the system of two blocks attached through a pulley and one of them resting on a table.

[acceleration](#), [forces](#), [friction](#), [Newton's laws](#), [pulleys](#), [string tension](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)



Exploration of free body diagrams, two body acceleration, and newton's laws through the system of two blocks resting on a pyramid and attached by a pulley.

[acceleration](#), [forces](#), [friction](#), [gravitational acceleration](#), [net force](#), [normal force](#), [weight](#)

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+ Mathematics

- Physics

» Vectors

+ Kinematics

- Dynamics

» Forces

» Springs

» Newton's Laws

+ Momentum

» Work,Energy,Power

» Thermodynamics

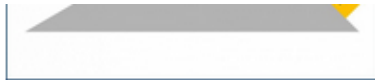
» Circular Motion

» Gravitation

» Wave motion and Optics

» Particle and Nuclear Physics

# Navigating the Resource



rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Cruising Car**

60 km/h

An introduction to acceleration and newton's laws using a demonstration of a commuting car.  
[acceleration](#), [displacement](#), [distance](#), [forces](#), [net force](#), [velocity](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Weight in an Elevator**

$a = ?$

How does a reading on a scale change when on a moving elevator? Scenarios with an elevator moving at different velocities and acceleration will be considered. The concepts learned will then be used to analyze data from a real-life experiment.  
[acceleration](#), [gravitational acceleration](#), [mass](#), [net force](#), [normal force](#), [real-life data](#), [velocity](#), [weight](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Tension Forces**

The following set of questions apply Newton's Second Law to scenarios with multiple blocks held together by the tension force from strings.

[acceleration](#) [area](#) [centripetal force](#) [common ratio](#)  
[conservation of energy](#) [conservation of momentum](#) [Conversion Factors](#) [counting](#) [current](#)  
[displacement](#) [distance](#) [elastic collisions](#) [forces](#)  
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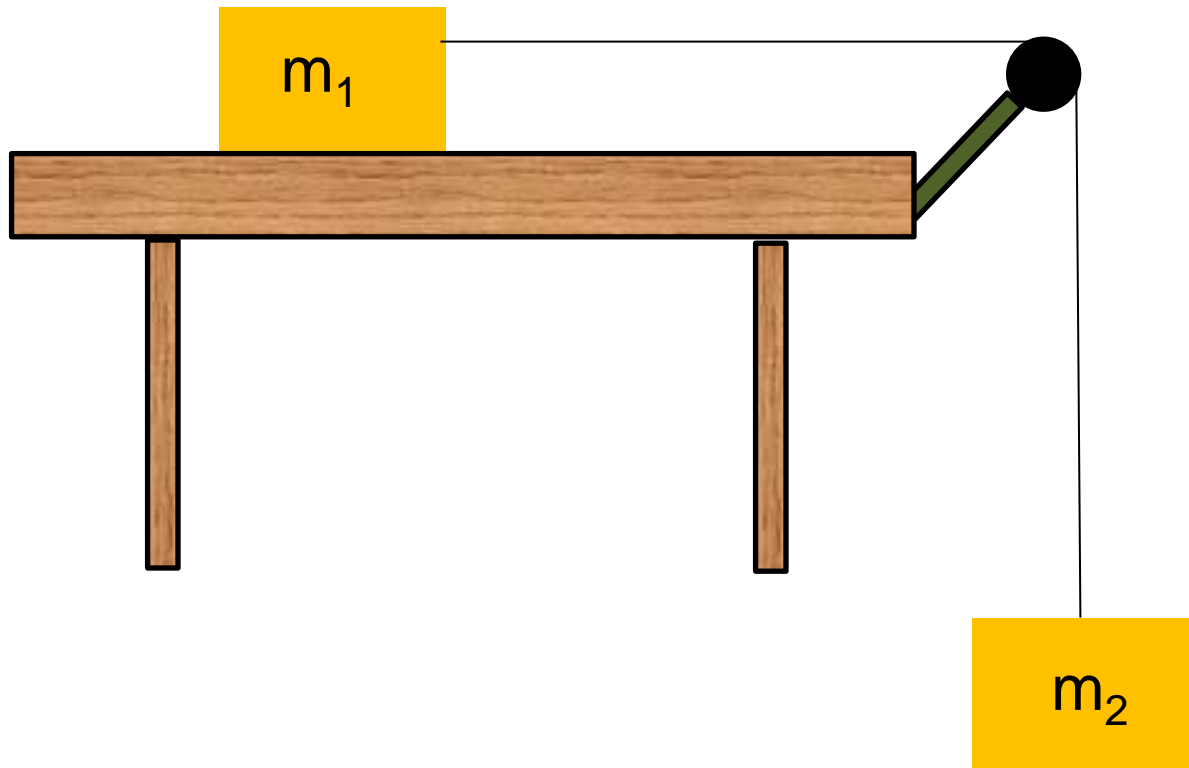


# Integrating into the Classroom

Instructor modeling  
AE pedagogy

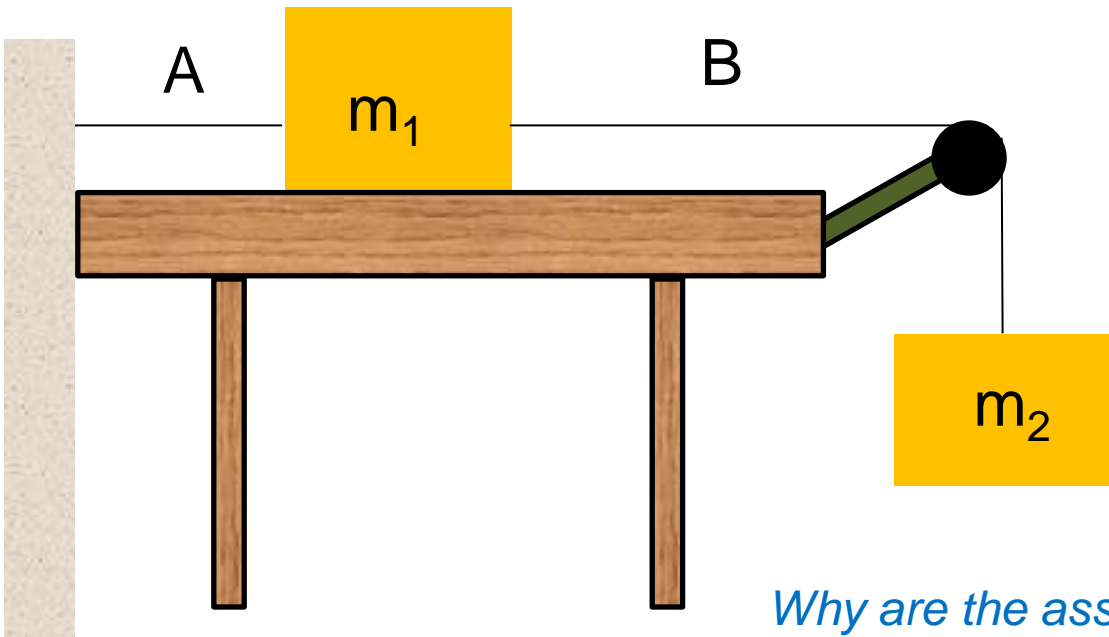
TCs experience  
developing  
questions

# Blocks and a Pulley



# Blocks and a Pulley II

Two blocks are connected via a pulley. The blocks are initially at rest as block  $m_1$  is attached to a wall. If string A breaks, what will the accelerations of the blocks be? (**Assume** friction is very small and strings don't stretch)



- A.  $a_1 = 0$ ;  $a_2 = 0$
- B.  $a_1 = g$ ;  $a_2 = g$
- C.  $a_1 = 0$ ;  $a_2 = g$
- D.  $a_1 = g$ ;  $a_2 = 0$
- E. None of the above

*Why are the assumptions above important?*

# Solution

**Answer:** E

**Justification:** None of the above answers is correct. Consider two blocks as one system: one can see that the system has a mass of  $(m_1+m_2)$ , while the net force pulling the system down is  $m_1g$ . Therefore, applying Newton's second law, one can see that the acceleration of the system must be less than  $g$ :

$$a = \frac{m_2g}{(m_1 + m_2)} = \frac{m_2}{(m_1 + m_2)} g < g$$

Some people think that the acceleration will be  $g$ . They forget that the system consists of two blocks (not just  $m_1$ ) and the only pulling force is  $m_1g$ . Thus the system is NOT in a free fall. Compare this questions to the previous one to see the difference.

# Integrating into the Classroom

Instructor modeling  
AE pedagogy

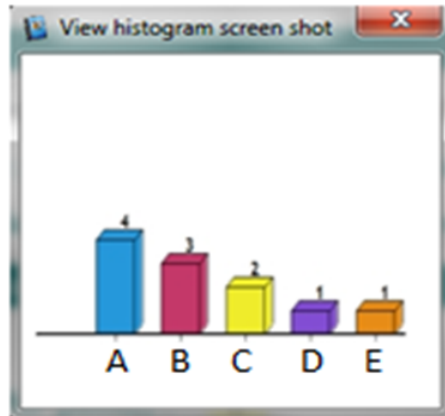
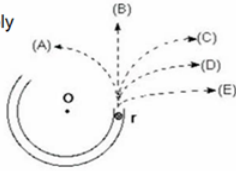
TCs experience  
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# Technology-Enhanced Active Engagement Integration

## Question

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**PI modeled in every class**

**PW used to design, critique, respond to Conceptual Questions as a community of future teachers**

# Resources

- Beatty, I., Gerace, W., Leonard, W., & Defresne, R. (2006). Designing Effective Questions for Classroom Response System Teaching. *American Journal of Physics*, 74(1), 31–39.
- CWSEI Clicker Resource Guide: An Instructors Guide to the Effective Use of Personal Response Systems (Clickers) in Teaching. (2009, June 1).
- Lasry, Nathaniel. (2008). Clickers or Flashcards: Is There Really a Difference? *The Physics Teacher*, 46(May), 242-244.
- Milner-Bolotin, Marina. (2004). Tips for Using a Peer Response System in the Large Introductory Physics Classroom. *The Physics Teacher*, 42(8), 47-48.
- Mishra, P., & Koehler, M. J. (2007). Technological pedagogical content knowledge (TPCK): Confronting the wicked problems of teaching with technology. In *Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (Vol. 2007, pp. 2214–2226). Retrieved from <http://www.editlib.org/p/24919/>



# Investigating the Impact of Clicker-Enhanced Pedagogy in a Secondary Physics Methods Course

**Part 2/2**

Supported by UBC Teaching and Learning  
Enhancement Fundn2012-2014

Alexandra MacDonald, Heather Fisher & Marina Milner-Bolotin

Sunday, January 5, 2014  
AAPT 2014 Orlando, Florida



# Research-Based Objectives

Investigate the effect of Active Engagement (AE) on teacher-candidates' (TCs') epistemologies

Explore a possible mechanism for AE pedagogy

Model AE in the context of the course content

# Integrating into the Classroom

Instructor modeling  
AE pedagogy

TCs experience  
developing  
questions

# Research Project

Timeline

Secondary Physics Methods Course  
(+ 2-week short practicum)

13 students  
13 weeks

Extended Practicum

10 weeks

Enhanced Practicum

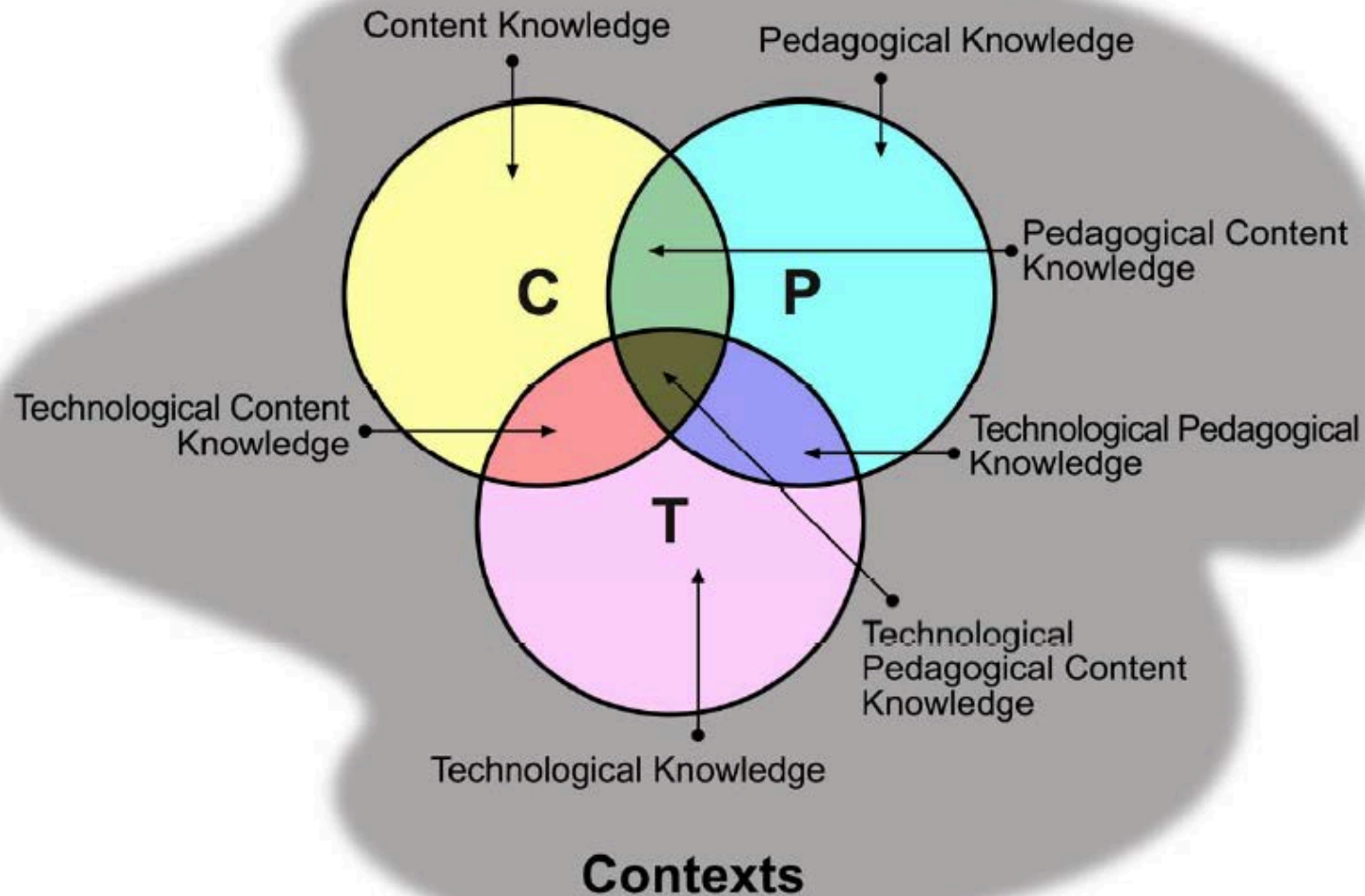
3 weeks

Pre-Practicum Interviews  
(8)

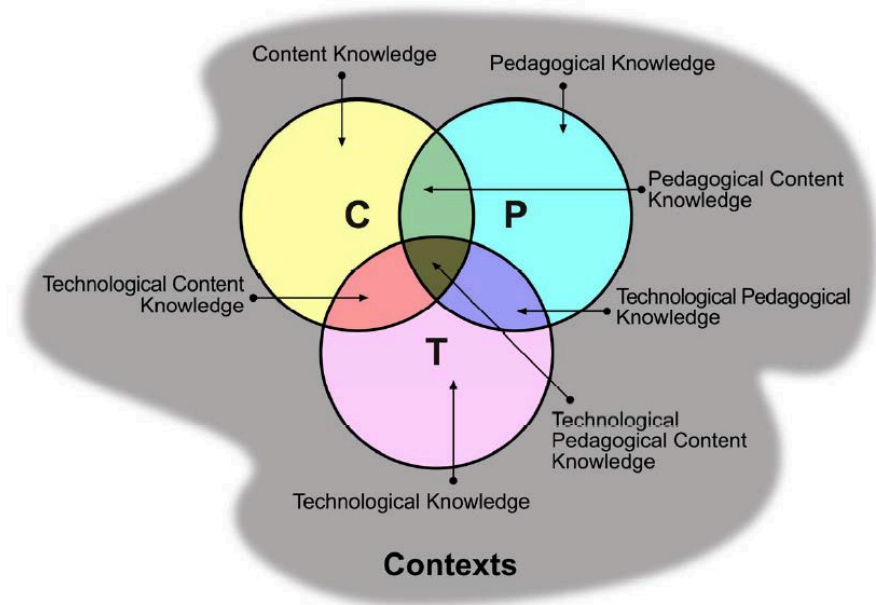
Post-Practicum Interviews  
(7)

Focus Group (1)

# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



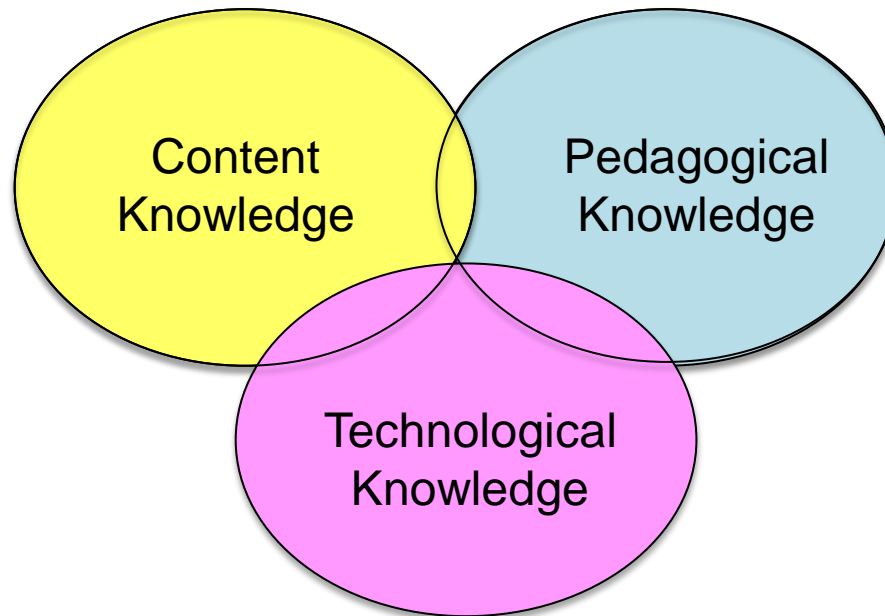
# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



*“It really opens the door for umm discussions between people. Um regarding a) you know, what is the right answer, and b) how would you explain that to uh either teacher-candidates or to your potential students.”*

Pre-Interview 2, Participant 9

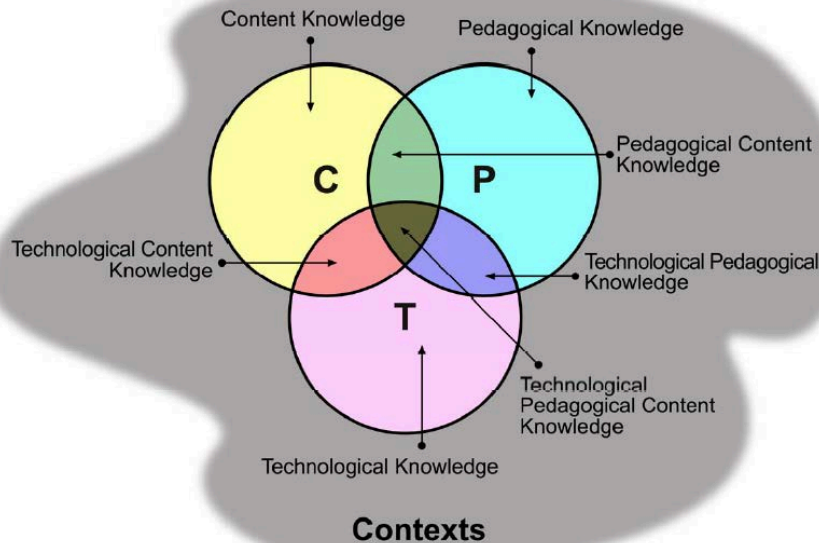
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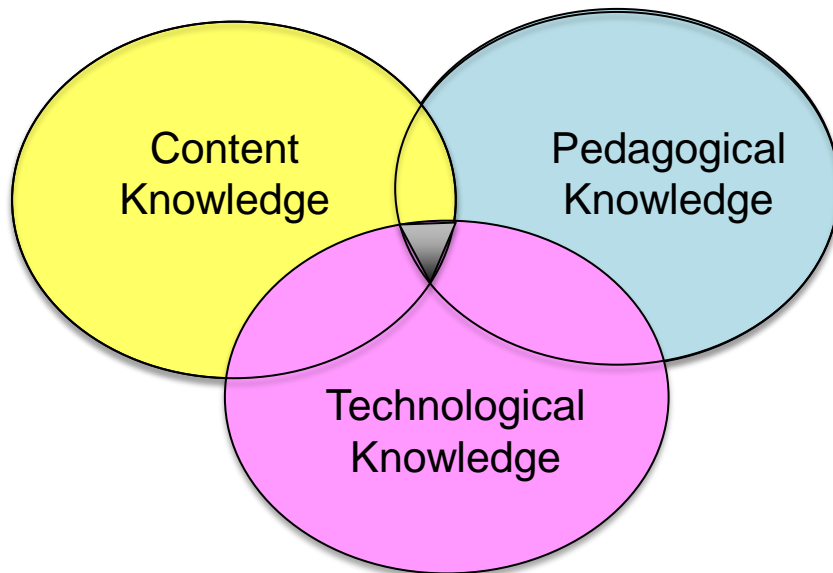
# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



*“So, if you set it up in a dynamic where... different types of people have [different needs], so if you need to talk to someone, you still get that, if you need silence, you get to think on it on your own, and then people aren’t so stressed... And they actually get to argue and talk back and forth and they’ll remember it more. So for them, I think they’ll master it more.”*

Post-Interview 2, Participant 20

# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



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Post-Interview 2, Participant 20



# Broad Impact for Teacher Education

Investigate the effect of Active Engagement (AE) on teacher-candidates' epistemologies

Model AE with the course content

Modeling impacts TCs epistemologies, regardless of successes/challenges in practicum

*"I'm there as a teacher, (pause) but I'm also there as a student. Conversely, they're there as a student, but they're also there as a teacher. That doesn't mean they're teaching necessarily, teaching me. They're teaching each other... You're always a student-teacher, regardless of whether or not, what your position says. The-the moment you step out, and you meet someone, you now are both a teacher and a learner."*

Post-Interview 1, Participant 15

# Broad Impact for Teacher Education

Explore a possible mechanism for AE pedagogy

Clicker-enhanced pedagogy works as a mechanism for AE pedagogy in a small class

*“Coming into the program, we were all sort of thought that we were expected to be masters, and if the instructor puts up a clicker question, you think ‘Jeez, I don’t actually know the answer’ – immediately you think well, we’re all supposed to be masters, I’m probably the only one who doesn’t know. But uh when the responses come in, you see other people think like you, it’s definitely reassuring.”*

Pre-Interview 2, Participant 9

# Resources

- Beatty, I., Gerace, W., Leonard, W., & Defresne, R. (2006). Designing Effective Questions for Classroom Response System Teaching. *American Journal of Physics*, 74(1), 31–39.
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