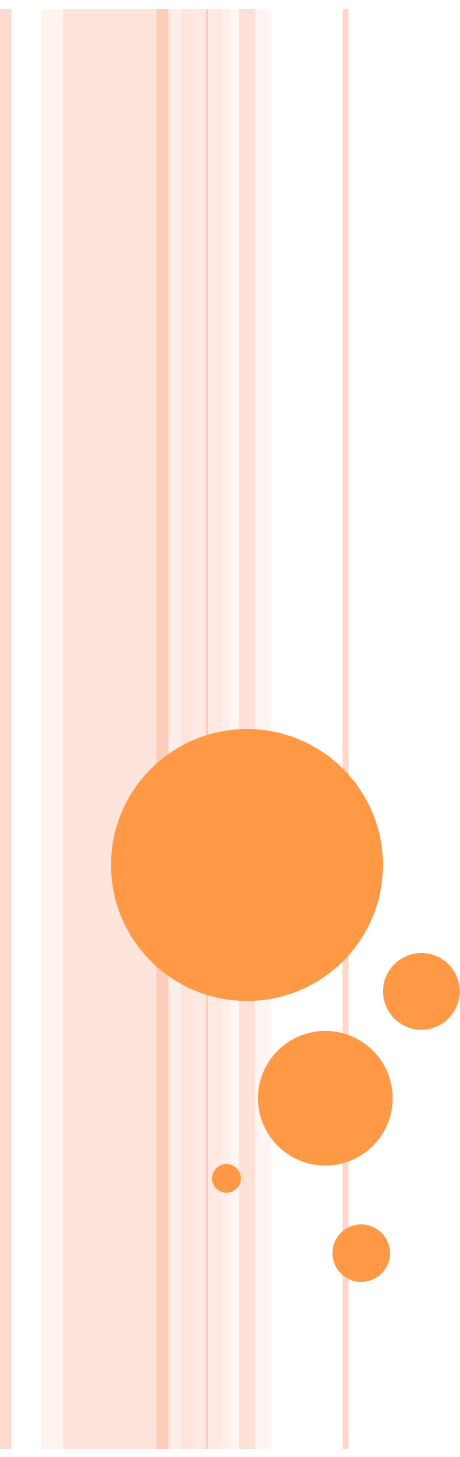




USING STUDENT EVALUATIONS TO IMPROVE TEACHING

Yiyan Wang

10-11am, Oct 29th, 2012 @KL159

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Interpret course evaluations.
- Identify ways of improving your teaching and future course evaluations.
- Use course evaluations in your job search.



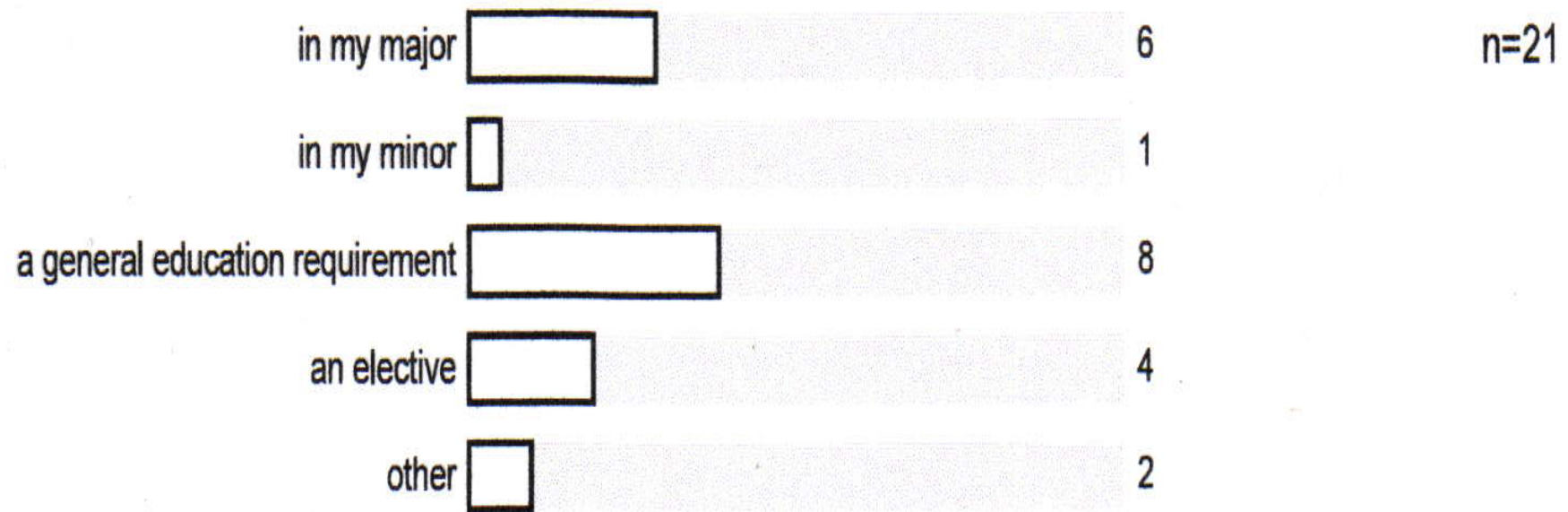
COURSE EVALUATION FORM

○ Statistics

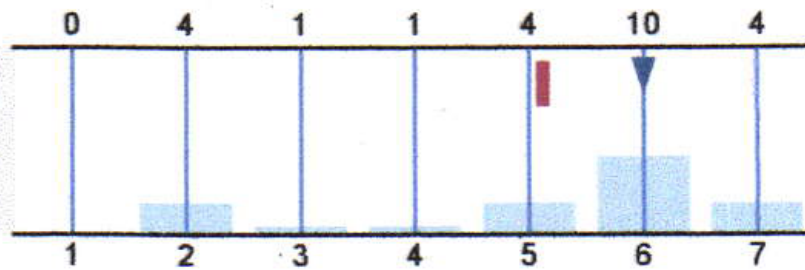
- Sample size
- Average (mean)
- Standard deviation
- Median
- Histogram



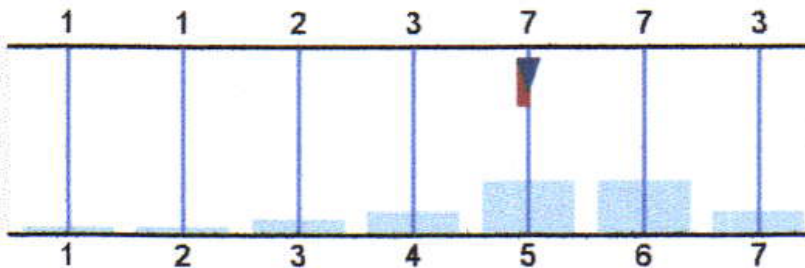
STATISTICS ---- SAMPLE SIZE & CATEGORIES



STATISTICS ---- AVERAGE & MEDIAN



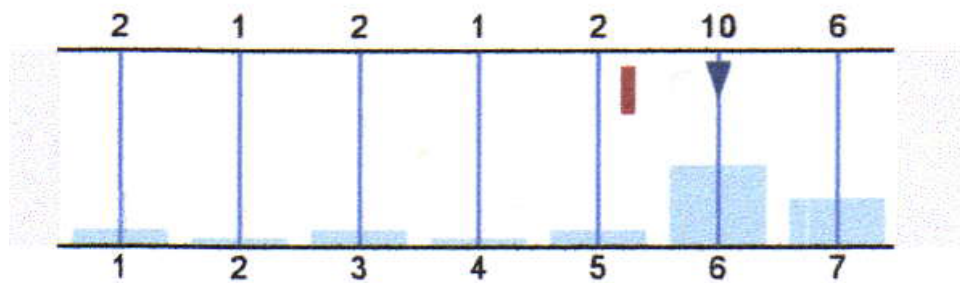
$n=24$
 $av.=5.1$
 $md=6$
 $dev.=1.7$



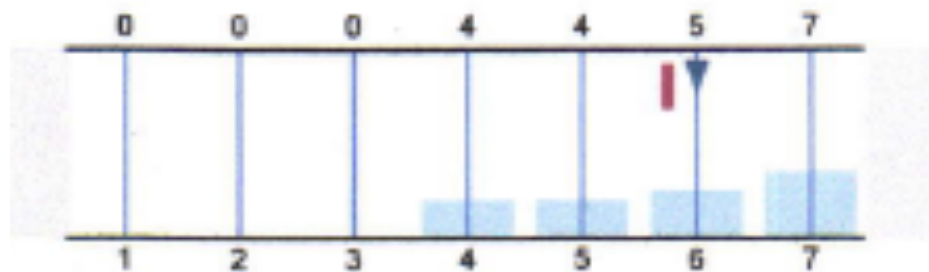
$n=24$
 $av.=5$
 $md=5$
 $dev.=1.5$



STATISTICS ---- STANDARD DEVIATION



n=24
av.=5.3
md=6
dev.=1.9



n=20
av.=5.8
md=6
dev.=1.2
ab.=3

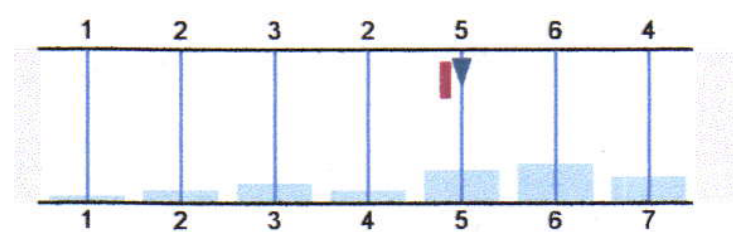
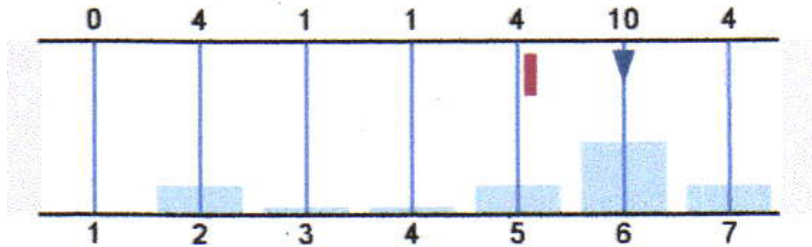
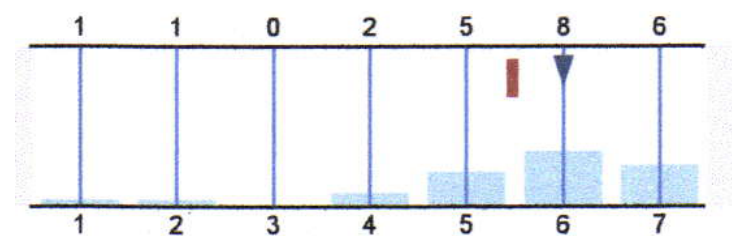
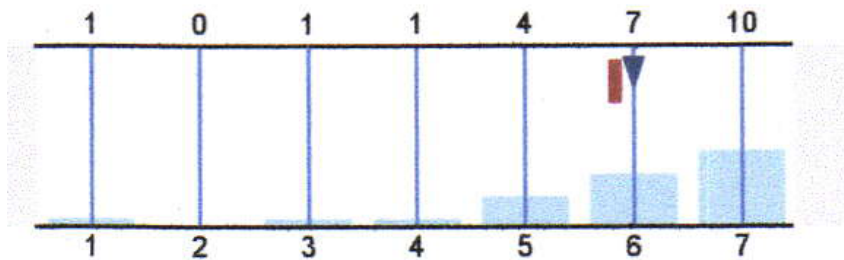


EXAMPLE

- Sensitivity to outliers: $\text{median} < \text{mean} < \text{std}$
- 10 samples from 1 to 10 (1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10)
 - median 5.5
 - mean 5.5
 - std 3.027
- The first is -10 others the same: (-10 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10)
 - median 5.5
 - mean 4.4
 - std 5.6804



STATISTICS ---- HISTOGRAM



DISCUSSION:

- What is this instructor doing well?
- What does he/she need to improve upon?



SUMMARY-

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE EVALUATION

- Become familiar with the questions in the evaluation.
- Take them into account when designing your lessons.
- Use evaluations as a checklist for teaching.



SUMMARY- WHILE YOU HAND OUT THE EVALUATION

- Show that you care about student learning and take the evaluation seriously.
- Share example of how you previously responded to students' concerns.
- Do not administer the evaluation on the day you also hand out grades.



SUMMARY-

HOW TO READ AND USE THE EVALUATION?

- Don't read the results when tired or busy.
- Scan for red flags.
- Sort the answers by theme.
- Depersonalize comments.
- Consider asking a peer to attend your class.
- Consider developing a teaching portfolio with reflection on improvement.



REFERENCES

- David D. Perlmutter, How to Read a Student Evaluation, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 30, 2011.
- The Professor is In, “What is Evidence of Teaching Excellence,”
<http://theprofessorisin.com/2011/09/23/1610/>
- University of Michigan, CRTL, “Teaching Strategies: Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness,”
<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tseot.php>, a listing of many resources.

