Memorandum

To: Professor A Einstein  
From: Kat Knapper (Seat 11), Day Dreamer (Seat 17), Bull Dozer (Seat 22), Ivana Sleepalot (Seat 34)  
Date: 09/15/2003  
Re: Short and Long Term Effects of Skipping Class

Introduction

The goal of this experiment was to determine both the positive and negative effects of not attending class, both for a single occasion and for multiple occurrences. The results of the experiment are summarized in the following section, using charts and text. A ‘Discussion’ of these results will be followed by the ‘Summary and Conclusions’ section.

Results and Description

The attached charts illustrate how student life changed as a result of the missed class(es) for selected students. Figure 1 shows the amount of sleep for one particular student who skipped the third day of class. Figure 2 shows mean scores on tests for each student group depending on days of class missed.

Discussion

Comparisons of test scores, sleep patterns, study time, and “fun” time were made within and between groups. Trends indicated that either “fun” or sleep generally increased as the missed classes increased, but usually not both. Careful analysis of the data also revealed a marked decrease of “fun” and sleep, accompanied by a sharp increase in study time immediately prior to an exam for individuals in all test groups. However, these affects were as most pronounced for students in group two, whose members had missed up to 20% of class periods, and much less evident in both group one and three.

Students selected to miss one or more classes immediately preceding an exam showed the most severe drop-off in both the “fun” and “sleep” categories, with 72% of students in this category reporting a corresponding increase in hours spent in the library.

A follow-up study, conducted immediately after the conclusion of the quarter in which the study was conducted, revealed a mean grade point difference for this class of 0.3 (out of a possible 4.0) between students in group two and students in group three. As a result of the follow-up study, several students in group two have
petitioned the college for permission to retake the course without penalty, and two
pre-law students (names withheld) have threatened legal action unless their grades are
immediately raised by 0.3 points.

**Summary and Conclusions**

The data show a decrease in the average grade for individuals missing one or more
days of class of 0.3 (out of a possible 4.0). These same students registered an
increased study time prior to the exam. Additionally, these students indicated that
their “fun” time or sleep (or both) decreased before the exam more than students who
did not miss a day.

These results lead to the conclusion that despite initial increases in “fun” or sleep,
the long-term effects of skipping even one class are most definitely negative.

Attachment. Graphical Summary of One Student’s Academic Performance Over a
Quarter, 1.
Graphical Summary of One Student’s Academic Performance Over a Quarter

Figure 1: Excerpted Sleep Pattern for Single Student

Figure 2: Exam Grade Comparison

Note to students: All data and charts should be submitted in an actual report, not just a sample of the data as provided here.