



Front Row Experience

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a place of mind

FACULTY OF
MANAGEMENT

Agenda

- ❑ Background of Front Row Experience
- ❑ What is the FRE?
- ❑ Objectives for FRE
- ❑ Different implementations of FRE
- ❑ Demonstration
- ❑ Results
- ❑ Student responses





Origins of Front Row

- ❑ My own fear of speaking up in large classes
- ❑ Early teaching experience in groups of 20
- ❑ Socratic Circles – Matt Copeland
- ❑ Case Method – Erskine et al, Ivey
 - ❑ Questions
 - ❑ Preparation
 - ❑ Advance notice



What is the FRE?

- ❑ Class divided into groups of 9-10 students
 - ❑ Groups sit in the Front Row for a specific class
 - ❑ Front Row are “first responders” to instructor questions
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- ❑ Can easily be modified to fit your class size and classroom constraints

Our General Objectives

- ❑ Create opportunity for discussion
 - ❑ Increase self confidence when speaking in groups or in class
 - ❑ Develop capacity to 'think on feet'
 - ❑ Affirm student opinion is valued
- ❑ Encourage preparation for class
- ❑ Introduce group work
- ❑ Connect with other students

Course Specific Objectives

MGMT 100

- Set expectations for FOM
- Allow students to learn about their own learning process
- Realize that where they sit does make a difference
- Obtain solid responses to questions
- Give everyone a chance
- Get to know students

MGMT 200

- Active listening
 - Note taking by non-FRE students
- Open ended questions
- Build on responses rather than critique them
- Foster 1-1 atmosphere

MGMT 100 Logistics

❑ Before

- ❑ Include as assignment in syllabus – 1x per term
- ❑ Divide class into groups, schedule dates, post onto CONNECT
- ❑ Email reminder of upcoming FRE

❑ During

- ❑ Distribute name cards and sign-in sheets
- ❑ Engage FRE students throughout the class
- ❑ Encourage FRE student collaboration on class exercises

❑ After

- ❑ 300 word personal memo about their FRE experience
 - ✓ due 48 hours after class
 - ✓ Activity is worth 2 participation points
- ❑ Read and provide feedback on their insights and observations

MGMT 200 Logistics

- ❑ 2x in FRE per term
 - ❑ 1st is very low key, and easy
 - ❑ 2nd is a dialogue about ethical principles
- ❑ Work on a case prepared for class
 - ❑ Initially develop response with FRE neighbors
 - ❑ Explore answers from FRE with entire class
- ❑ Rolling seat assignments
- ❑ Part of participation grade
 - ❑ Reflection paper, after 2nd FRE

FRE Results



Summary Comments

	MGMT 100	MGMT 200
Made me see benefit of preparation	✓	✓
Opportunity to improve my study habits for all classes	✓	✓
Class was much more interesting	✓	✓
Learned so much more, know what is important and why	✓	✓
Allowed me to hear/learn other perspectives to an issue	✓	✓
Helped me learn how to deal with cases		✓
Heard and saw everything more clearly	✓	✓
Realized the value of sitting in class without distractions	✓	✓
Less intimidating than I had expected	✓	✓
First time I spoke in class, gained real confidence	✓	✓
Helped me feel my opinion is valued	✓	✓
Helped me find friends in classroom	✓	✓
Got to know a professor, professors are not my enemies	✓	✓

Random Excerpts from Student Memos

There is no doubt that sitting in the front row experience left me a wonderful memory for my overseas university life. It is worthy to remember it.

At least, I tried really hard to prepare for the class because of sitting in the front row.

I realized that having a better understanding of the chapter before coming to class improves my learning, and I will most likely be taking notes for every chapter from now on.

Without this experience I would have most likely skimmed the chapter, written the quiz, and coasted through the class without participating. I had taken detailed notes of the entire chapter so I was prepared for any questions. Because of this exercise, I have studied the role of government in business and will be better prepared for any tests, quizzes, or exams.

I've been having a bit of a hard time adjusting to my course load compared to high school, and I am happy that the FRE forced me to buckle down and actually learn what I had to for the next class.

Actively participating in classroom discussions makes the topic more exciting, and therefore easier to understand. With the positive experience I gained from speaking up during FRE, I believe I will continue to do so more often. As a result, I hope that future course material will also become more exciting and easier to understand.

Random Excerpts from Student Memos

I noticed that my understanding became clearer because of the notes I had prepared. For example, I got all the clicker questions correct, when most of the time I would get at least one incorrect.

Having the ability to engage in these one-on-one conversations with you greatly aided to my understanding of the course content. Remembering important information from class was not quite the struggle it usually is. Having this aid of interaction excited me to learn.

I enjoyed sitting at the front of the class and it was nice to work with the others whom were having their front row experience, because they were also knowledgeable about the chapter and we could easily share ideas and actively discuss the material. This was a nice change compared to other classes where I have found myself working with peers who haven't covered the assigned material and who are not interested in the material.

The physical closeness to the front of the room kept my attention on the material. The farther away from the front you sit the easier it is to let your attention slip.

To be completely honest, it was a pleasant feeling to put my phone on silent and log off Facebook and give my full attention to the lecture, not missing any small details that I may have missed before.

Random Excerpts from Student Memos

As a 3rd year student, I have never engaged in a class like that. I never thought that participation in that form could help me succeed. Yesterday's experience made me feel great. Though the first time I had to give you an answer I was incredibly nervous. All I could think to myself was that I knew the correct answer, I just needed to gain the courage to spit it out without mixing my words or freezing. After that, I felt so empowered! I was so excited for you to ask our row for answers again, I was surprised with myself. It was incredible to feel so involved and to feel so knowledgeable. Not only did I know the material but also I was excited about it! This experience gave me so much courage, and it was honestly a great way to start my day.

Prior to my Front Row Experience day, I only knew about 4 people in the class. But when I sat down, I realized that everyone else in the front row had the same jitters as I did. No one knew what to expect. So we shared the common distress of a new experience, allowing us to bond. Hopefully, it will lead to potential group members for a future project.

My two partners that I had when working on the assignment in class were great, it goes to show how well people can work together when they all know what they are supposed to and can contribute accordingly. When midterms and exams grace us I know I will have a solid study group of my peers to help me out.

I wouldn't even be surprised if this was the first time that I interacted with one of my Professors, it really showed me that they are more down to earth and are more there to help individuals

Questions/Comments?

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