

Fostering student motivation

Elective Subject in the MSc Pharmaceutical Sciences:

Molecular Mechanisms of Drug Actions and Targets

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Intention and Concept

To go **beyond the simplified text book explanations** of how drugs act.

- ⇒ Complexity (human body, large patient populations)
- ⇒ Predictive power and limitations of (pre-)clinical studies
- ⇒ Put drug development into a larger context

**Analysis of cases of drugs that failed in clinical development/
when already on the market**

⇒ What was the problem? Why were the assumptions / predictions wrong? How were decisions taken?

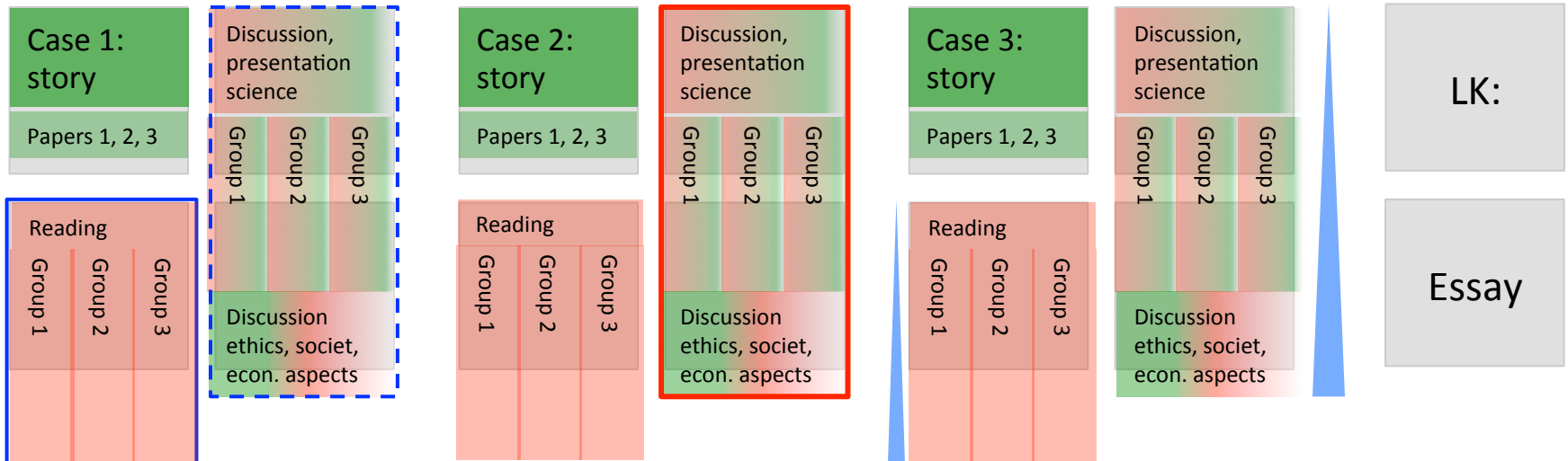
Goal

My goal is NOT to provide the students with more knowledge.

It is RATHER that they

- Read relevant scientific literature,
- Think, discuss
- Find and present their own answers and opinion.

Materials and Methods



My input
Students work/input

Sources of student's motivation

autonomy

relatedness

competence

Materials and Methods



Results

It works: Vivid participation and dedication of students.

- **Autonomy:** They do read the scientific literature! They come up with answers, form an opinion of their own.
- **Relatedness:** group discussions, discussions with me. Student's answers, judgments, opinion: respected and taken up with interest and benevolence.
- **Competence:**
Real cases!
Finding answers to fundamental questions that go beyond common textbook knowledge.

Students' Feedback

Free commentaries in course evaluation:

- “I liked the fact that **students could shape the lessons and contribute their own opinion.**”
- “Interesting and original organization of lecture. You **approach a topic differently when you can talk about it in groups and exchange ideas.**”
- “I have looked into **questions I had never thought about before.**”
- “the discussions on ethical, societal, economical aspects would be more interesting if they were more extensive. Perhaps the students could prepare transparencies at home so that there would be more time for discussion.”