

The Power of PowerPoint: Student, Teacher and Professional Perspectives

Mary Jorgensen¹, Alice Havel^{1,4}, Laura King^{1,3,7}, Catherine Fichten^{1,2,4,5,6,7}, Alex Lussier¹, Maegan Harvison^{1,4}, Christine Vo¹,

¹Adaptech Research Network ²McGill University ³Cégep André-Laurendeau ⁴Dawson College ⁵Jewish General Hospital ⁶CRIR ⁷CSLP



Presentation at the 7th Annual SALTISE Conference, Montreal, Quebec

May 31, 2018

For more information: mjorgensen@dawsoncollege.qc.ca

Summary

- The goal was to examine the use of PowerPoint (PPT) in college education
 - Student, teacher and professional perspectives on the use of PPT
 - Best practices using PPT in teaching identified by students

Methodology

Participants (1 English college)

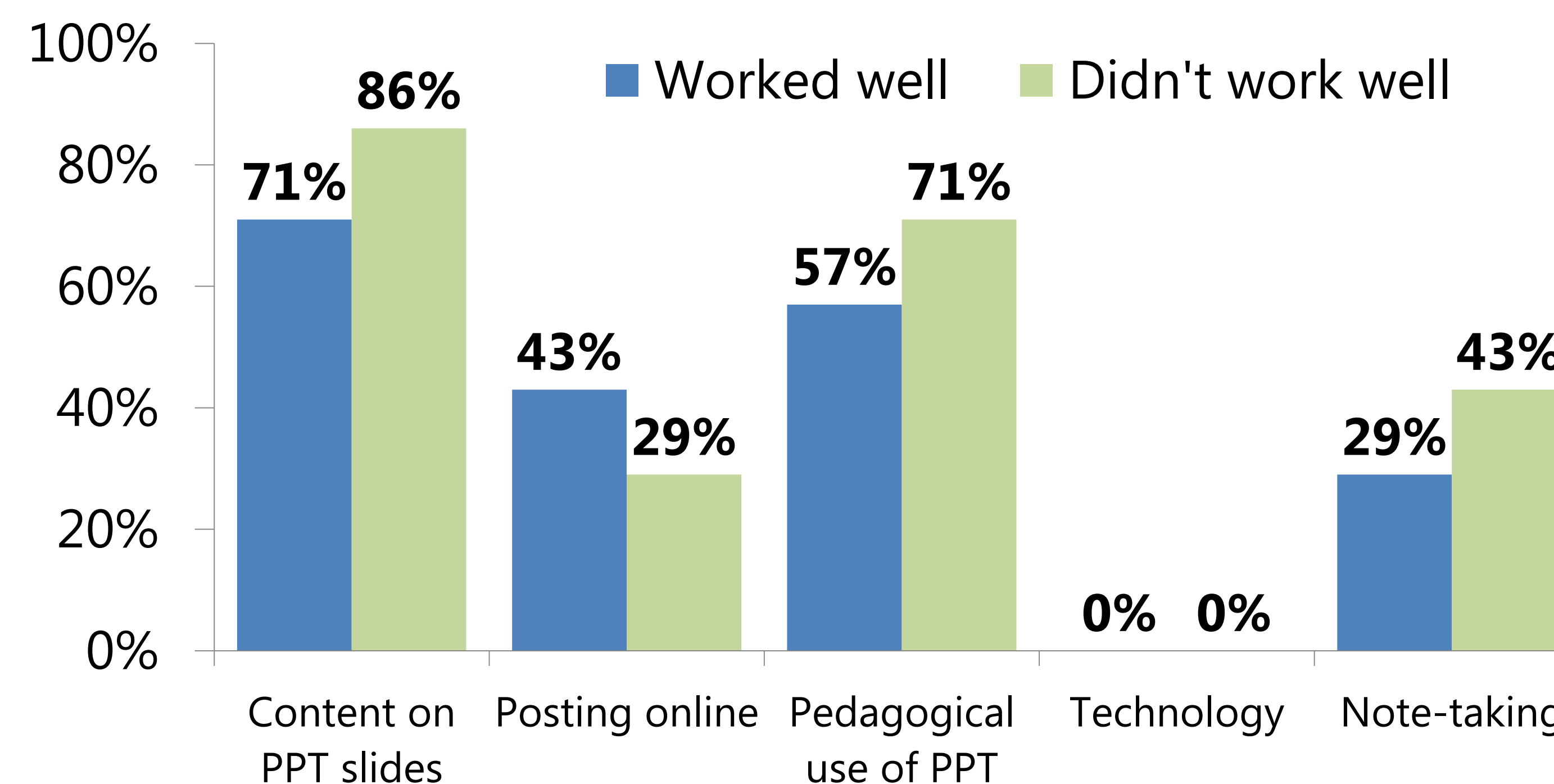
- 3 focus groups
 - Social science students (n = 7)
 - Teachers (n = 8)
 - Professionals (n = 7)
- Student questionnaire
 - 284 social science students
 - 213 (75 %) females, 62 (22 %) males, 2 (1 %) other and 7 (2%) not reported
 - Average age = 18.54
 - 75 (26%) with disabilities, 209 (74%) without disabilities

Measures

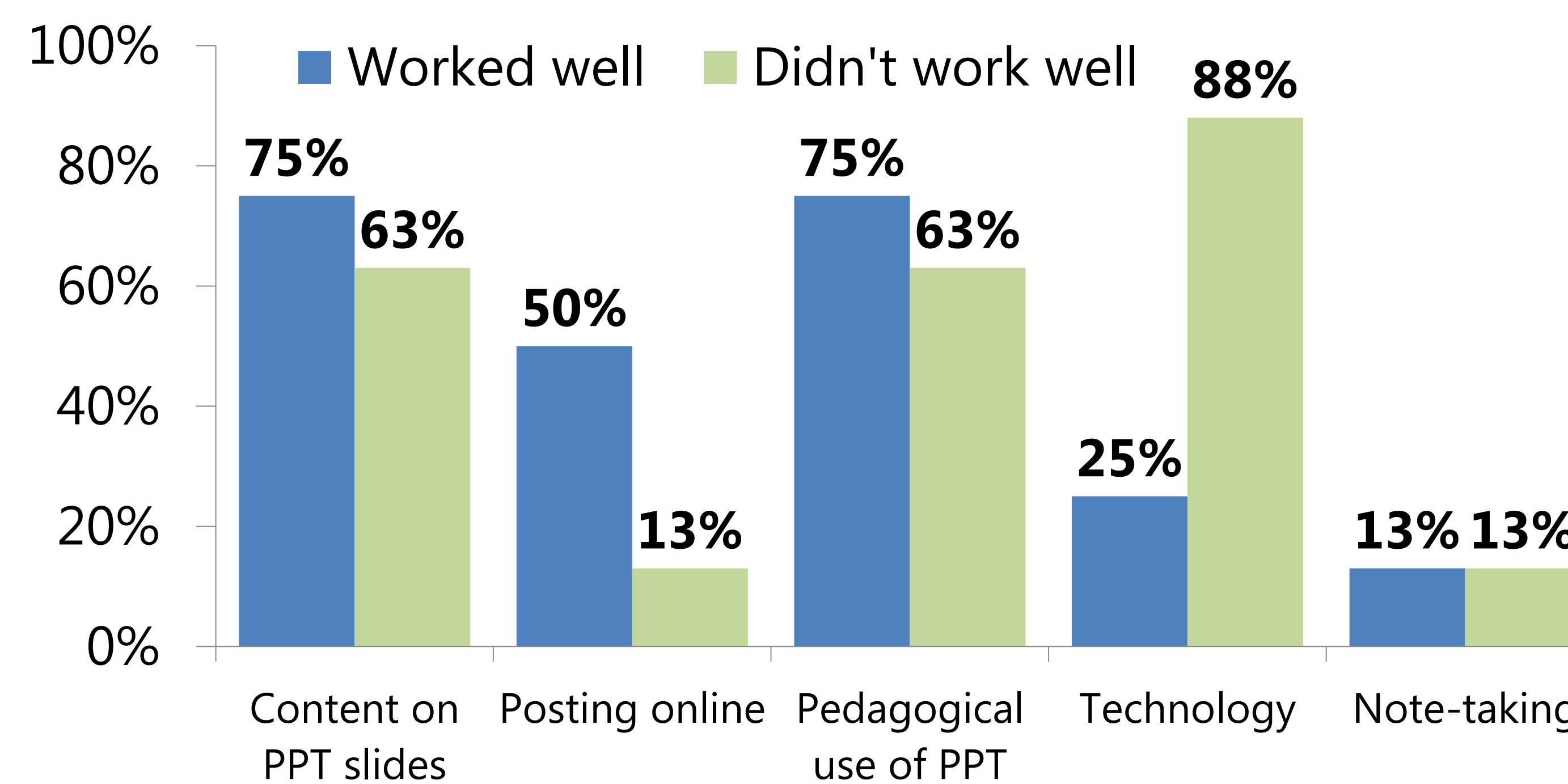
- Key focus group questions:
 - How PPT was used in a way that worked well?
 - How PPT was used in a way that did not work well?
- Student questionnaire
 - Based on focus group findings
 - Completed in 9 social science classes
 - Examined student experience with PPT in their courses

Results

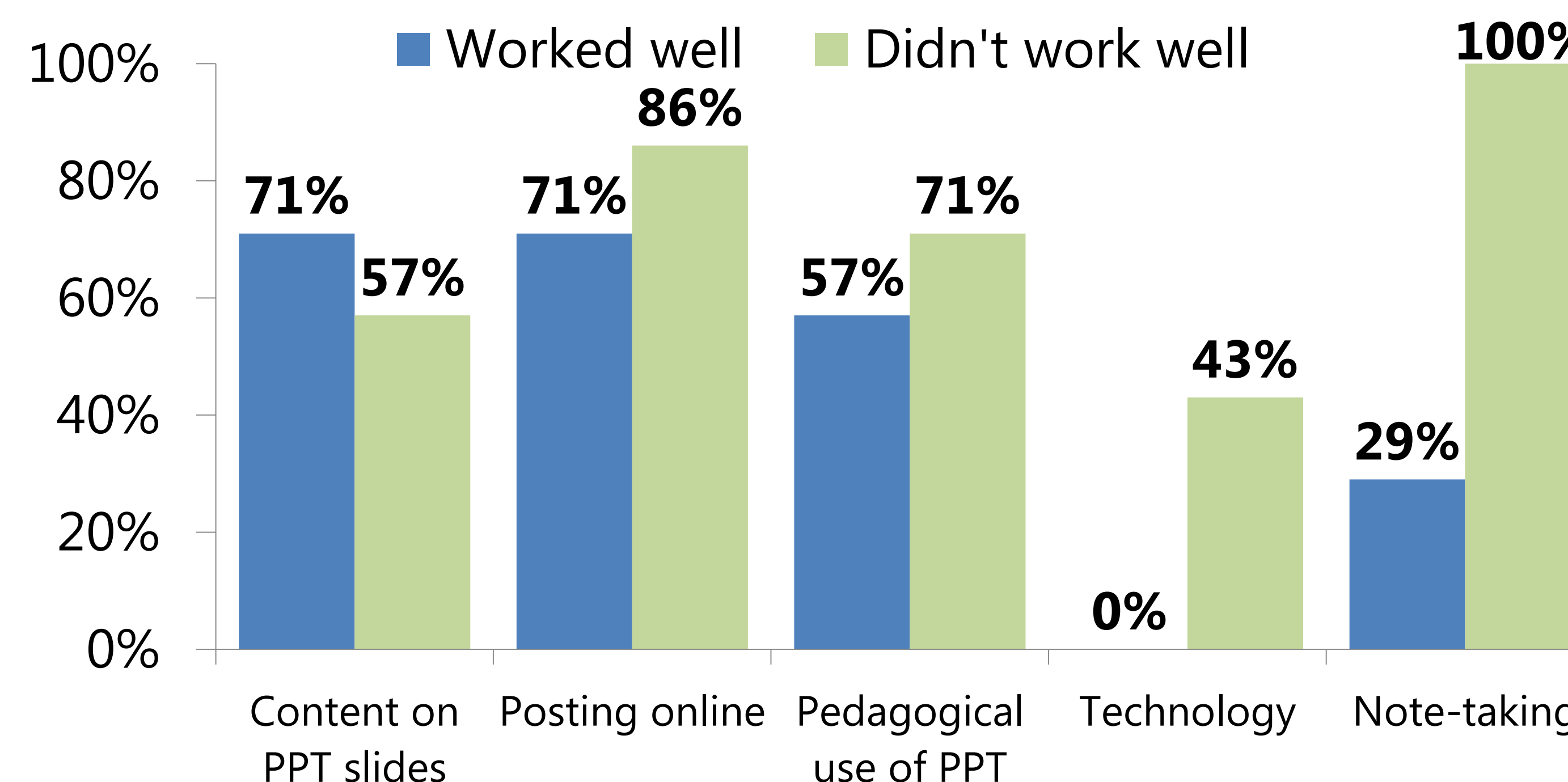
Student Focus Group



Teacher Focus Group



Professional Focus Group



Student Questionnaire: Best Practices Using PowerPoint

How well does it work	M
0 = Didn't work well to 10 = Worked well	
Only Keywords presented on slides	5.48
Concepts written in full sentences	7.36
Only images - no text	2.94
Images with text	7.84
Notes never posted online	1.04
Notes posted online before class	7.77
Notes posted online after class	6.93
PPT posted only in PDF	6.13
PPT posted only in PPT format	7.33
PPT posted in PDF and PPT format	8.24
PPT slides have good contrast	7.61
PPT slides have busy template	5.01
Teacher stands beside computer	6.29
Teacher walks around	7.43

Take-Home Messages

- Perspectives of students, teachers and professionals regarding PPT are very different
- PPT and class notes are considered synonymous for some, but not for everyone
- Students value teachers' use of PPT in the classroom
 - Clarity and content of slides to facilitate understanding
 - Interactive use of PPT to facilitate discussion