The “Reading Choice” Model: Student Voice, Jigsaw Activities, and Course Content

Problem!

- Course has 2 fewer sessions than normal
- How do I cover the same amount of content? How do I get students to read more?

What if we cover the same material collectively, but build-in student choice, individually?

The Reading Choice Model

Survey

Select readings of interest, assign the rest

Classroom Jigsaw

First in ‘expert’ groups, then interteaching

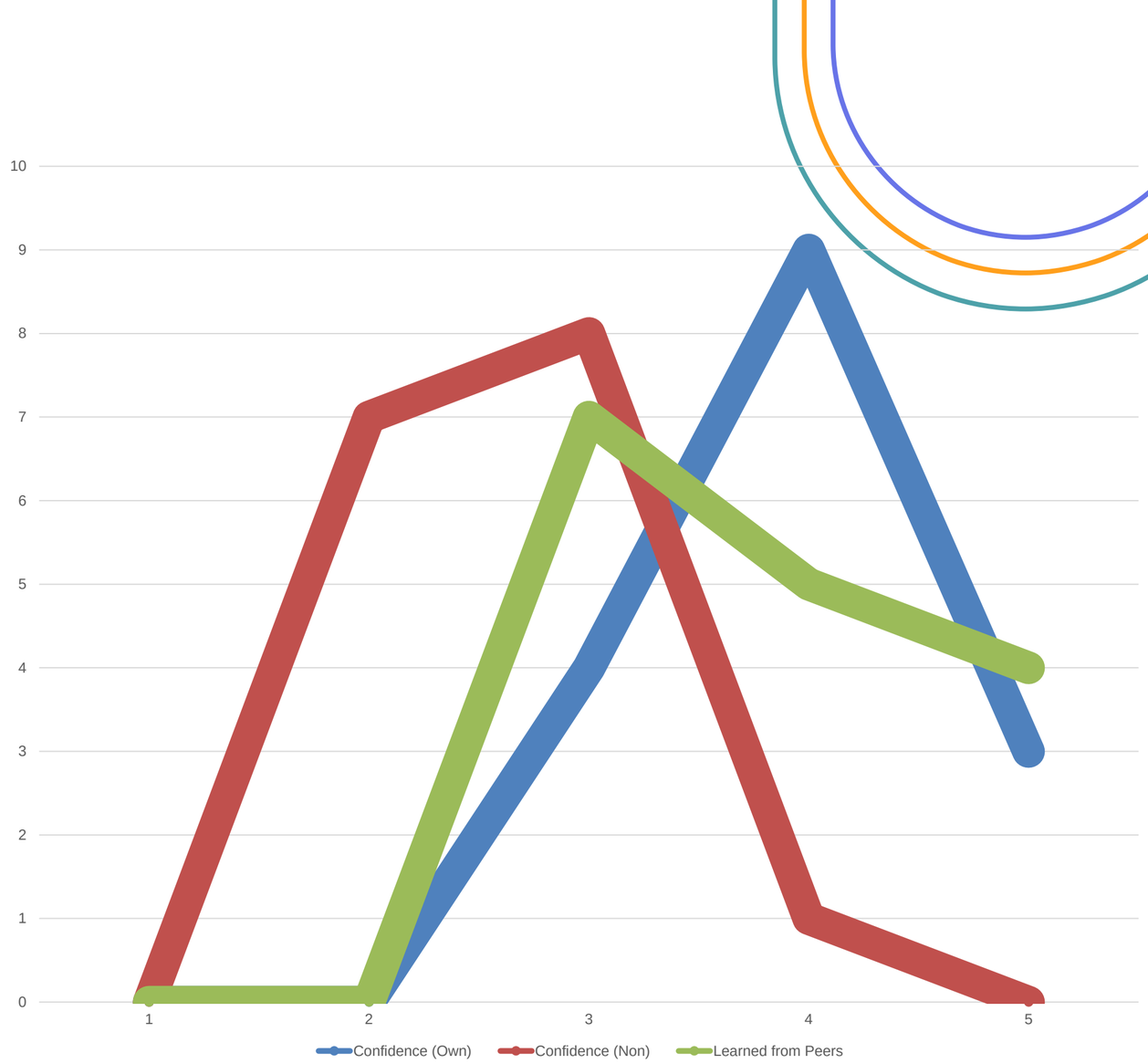
Debrief/Plenary Qs

Connect to themes, compare, etc.

My Takeaways

- Structured discussions worked
- Especially effective when readings disagreed
- Better depth of conversation and more connections

Who preferred RC versus full reading?



Confidence in Knowledge

“I feel that when I wasn’t quiet understanding a given reading, reflecting on it with my classmates deepened my understanding and helped me see what wasn’t originally clicking.”

We take 5 courses, some of us work, and we're expected to have a social life. It's hard to do everything, so choice and a bit less makes it easier to learn and engage.

“Class was most engaging when doing these structured conversations. It alleviated some of the weekly pressure.