Making Learning Engaging Through Interactive Games

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The next example, which is very, very popular across the world is what is known as bingo game. In parts of India, it's called Housie, Tambola, but essentially, and maybe it's called differently in different parts of the world, but essentially we are talking about the game board, which has a set of cells, which has usually terms, and there is a call out that happens. Typically in a fun-filled, pure fun-filled game that is played during parties, you will find bingo chits just having numbers. Numbers usually from 1 to 100 and the person who conducts the game he or she would read out numbers. Those who have the numbers will cross it and those who don't have it will have to wait for their turn. And those people who manage to get one full row or one full column right of crossed numbers, they are called out as winners or probably I would say they get part credits.

There is usually a first row, first column, diagonal and when everybody gets the, when someone gets all the cells right, it's called the full house. That's the conventional party version of the game. Now, let's see how that can be customized in the context of learning. Designing a bingo game as a learning game, here are the preparation steps.

Take any subject. There will be always a list of new terminologies that the learners have to learn. So, that's the first step. Identify maybe top 20 or 25 terms. It can be for a specific topic or it can be even for a subject that has been taught for a particular standard.

The next is to make those I mean, identify bingo cards in terms of the size of the bingo card. See, in the party version of the bingo card, it will be a long rectangular card, probably I am guessing with maybe 8 to 10 columns and maybe 3 rows, if I remember right. That is the standard version that I have seen. But here, we could customize that. Do we want to give a 3 by 3, 3 by 4? or 5x5, it's up to us.

Depends on how many cells we want to have for each player of the bingo. Now the third part is, there are some nice tools available, which we'll get to see, with which the bingo individual sheets can be prepared. And the fourth is the most important step. In a conventional pure party or fun bingo, there is no preparation needed. All we need to do is

just read out the numbers one by one.

 But here, we need to learn and teach identification of the definition of the terminology along with the term being called. The terms are, is what is going to be there in the bingo card, bingo sheets that the players have. And the definitions is what, definitions or clues is what the facilitator of the game needs to read out. So it's helpful to have that listed out in a sheet. So we'll get to see all of these in the next set of slides as to how to go about doing the preparation of the game.

 So, let's take legal studies for a change. We have been dealing with a lot of Science, Social, English. So, let's see how we can prepare a bingo. I have chosen a bunch of about 25 terms in the context of basic legal studies and let's see. The first step is of course to prepare the list of all the terms.

  One row at a time, neatly list them out. Next is we can use a set of tools to actually create the bingo sheets that can be handed over. Now, there are multiple tools available and the first method that I am going to share here is there are bingo sheet generators available these are macro based xls that are freely available for download in many sites. I'm just picking up one thing that's available in teachers pay teachers so we need to go here i've just opened it up this is how it appears and what we are asked to do is if we read this specific instruction. I'll zoom it out a bit so that you're able to see it for better clarity enter the game name and 30 terms in the boxes below terms could include items like einstein etc etc then the teacher could quiz with the clue.

 But the important part is this is talking about preparation of 30 words. We have prepared 25 but we will figure it out. Let us use this for illustration purposes. Going back to the previous slide, so the words are law, statute, common law, civil law. Let us start typing that out.

 Statute, Common Law Civil Law Criminal Law, Constitution, Will of Rights. Now, Look at what is happening on the right side of the Excel list. As I start typing these, these bingo sheets start getting populated at random. So these are the sheets that will be going to the individual players and the randomness has already been created as you can see. Common law appears here in the sheet.

 It is missing in the sheet and it appears here in the fourth row. Here it appears in the second row. What I'm trying to highlight is the positions or the cells are randomized for different bingo sheets. As we scroll down, we see the same thing happening for the various different terms. So the terms get randomized across each player, which is essentially what we want because that is the randomness is what is causing the fun factor.

So, as we start typing more terms, we typed until Bill of Rights, Jurisdiction Legal Person Taught, Contract Negligence, Defendant. Plaintiff evidence, jury judgment, appeal, due process, miranda rights, subpoena. Okay, so, we have got about 25, okay, adjudication. We have precedent. Now, you see most of the words have gotten filled on the right-hand side.

But there are few more left because it's expecting 30 words. I mean, just for sake of convenience, I'm just going to maybe make it Civil Court, Criminal Court, Supreme Court, High Court, District Court. I mean, these are just words I chose at random, but hopefully related. Now, if you see, all of these get populated and you can see all of them in a different order. Yeah, and here what we can do is change the name of the bingo game to , L-E-G-A-L, legal.

So, because we are dealing with legal studies, you can change the name that gets printed on the bingo sheet. So, it's so convenient to prepare the bingo sheets which needs to be printed and given to the individual person. Now, we saw one way of doing it. Now, let us try another tool which is called osric.

com bingo generator. I will try to depict by loading that screen. Here again, what we need to do is once we have the words, we just need to go to the screen and copy paste them here. It is expecting the word separation, a comma to be separating the word. So, that is one thing we need to take care.

So, go to osric.com bingo generator, enter the words And here there is no restriction on the minimum number of words expected. We can make it lesser or more. So that's one convenience. I'm just typing it out.

Okay. Now, legal studies bingo is the name of the card. Now, these things, this offers an option whether to include a free space in the center or not, we will see what that is. And if it is going to be there, should it have any text. I can just call it free space. Where do you want it to be placed, center or at random? This is not absolutely needed, but we will just have it.

Now, here we get the option of the number of squares to be made. How many squares wide and how many squares, what is the width and the height essentially. Earlier in the other tool we saw that it was expecting 30 words and all bingo cards were 5 by 5. Here we can experiment with let us say 3 by 4, we will try to highlight and number of cards to create. Here again in the earlier option the number of cards generated were fixed, but here we can probably let us initially try it with bingo cards and you just need to click on

create bingo cards generate bingo cards and it's ready now because it's a an odd sized bingo.

I mean, it is not like a square bingo. The free space happened to be accommodated somewhere in the third row. But it is as I said, it is not necessarily needed. You can see the respective bingo cards all being at random. The first one has law here, common law.

I mean, all the words are chosen at random and it has prepared 10 cards. This is a very elegant way of doing it. Now, we will try to remove the free space that is really not needed and now let us try with let us say 4 by 4 and let us say let us try with 15 cards. These are the parameters that you can change and now you have got a 4 by 4 and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. So, yes we got what we wanted and this way we can vary.

One of the important things to keep in mind is it's helpful to have a lot more words than the number of cards we want to generate. Let's say we want to generate about 15 cards and let us say the bingo card size is going to be 4 by 4, which means it is 16 terms. It is at least helpful to have about 25 words or more. Do not have the number of words overall, very close to the number of words on the bingo sheet, which is essentially in this case 4 by 4, earlier case we did 3 by 4, which is 12 words. The reason is, otherwise every single bingo sheet will be almost similar.

The chance or the choice for the bingo sheet to have a smaller subset of words and opportunities to randomize becomes lesser. As the calling of the clues happens, it is essential that only a smaller subset is available with every player rather than the entire set being available in different places. Every bingo card should differ from the other not only in terms of the placement of the word but also the words themselves to some extent. Let's say we have about 25 words overall and we prepare 4 by 4, which means there are 9 words that could be used in that randomizing. So, some people may get some words repeated across sheets, some others may not have it.

But let us say if we design a 4 by 5 bingo and we have only 25 words, there are only 5 words that are available extra, which means there will be more repetitions across cards, which is something we need to avoid. So, have a significant difference between the number of words and the number of cards, the number of words on each bingo sheet. So, this is the second way that we saw of generating bingo cards. The third way, I mean there are plenty of websites out there, I am just trying to show about two or three of them, I think so that you have a variety that you can explore. Here is another website that can help generate bingo.

You can go to bingobaker.com. Once again, it is expecting one item per line. Essentially, it is expecting a set of bingo words separated by one line each. We will again go back to the bingo word list, copy paste this. And click on generate, let's see what happens. Yeah it's created the bingo word here and here again i think it offers the flexibility to title it legal studies bingo and once again here the options for the bingo cells are more like, it offers only a square variation three by three four by four etc.

And here again there is an option of checking whether we want a free space in the center or not then and then we click on generate Legal Studies Bingo is ready. Oops, I think this time the words weren't copied. Let me try it again. Okay, you here enter Legal Studies Bingo. We choose a 3x3 this time and key in the set of words and click on Generate.

Okay and then we can print and the three by three bingo is getting generated there is one change though this bin is happening because of us not changing the word on top here again we'll make it l e g a l and Let us make it 4 by 4 this time.. So, now the options are lesser for the title probably, but at least there is a way to specify the title. We can leave this and paste in the set of words and generate.

Once again, we can print. The cards are ready now. Here is another tool by which the same thing could be accomplished. Now, coming back to the main thing that we were trying to do, once again, reiterating the set of steps, make a list of all terminologies, identify the bingo cards to be made in terms of the number of cells, which is like 3 by 4, 4 by 4, etcetera, depending on which ones are supported by the tool. Use the tools to create bingo sheets which is something we have done so far. The last part is make a list of all terminologies along with their definitions for calling them out.

So we have done all these and here is what is very important for the facilitator. Here are the words along with their definitions. So, while conducting the game, as the sheets are given out to the participants, the facilitator starts reading those terms out. Let's say, for example, for appeal, they read out the process of seeking a review of the lower court's decision by a higher court, typically based on the claims of legal error or injustice. When this is read out, All the participants take a look at their sheet and try and mark what they think is closest or is the exact definition of the terminology that they have in their sheets and then mark it and so on and so forth as subsequent definitions are read out.

The important thing is sometimes there could be misunderstanding and they may actually mark a wrong term and claim a bingo. At that point, while declaring somebody as the winner of a row bingo or a column bingo, it is important to verify and match whether the clues that have been read out are actually matching the words in a correct sense. So, that is a check that the facilitator needs to do. So, but otherwise preparing these

list of definitions for all the 25 terminologies and giving it to the instructor, this in conjunction with the bingo sheets will make the game ready to play. So, hope you got an idea of how to create these fun-filled bingo games.

Every single day, I'm gonna make something great. That's my way. Every single day, I'm gonna make something great. That's my, that's my way. Thank you.