Improving Conversation and Questioning in Online Courses

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Using a free social network analysis tool such as SNAPP (which works within most learning management systems), online instructors can see how frequently students are participating and interacting with each other (and with the instructor) in online discussions. SNAPP creates easy to interpret graphics of discussion board interactions. Finding patterns in the graphics allows instructors to determine the relative strength of a learning community and see the activity of each participant. The data collected may be used to work with students, helping them to become more active members and participants in online classes and learning communities. The data may also be used to help instructors reevaluate prompts and questions for discussion to potentially increase collaboration and conversation in online classes and communities.