

Senior medical students as PBL facilitators: Are they as good as experienced faculty?

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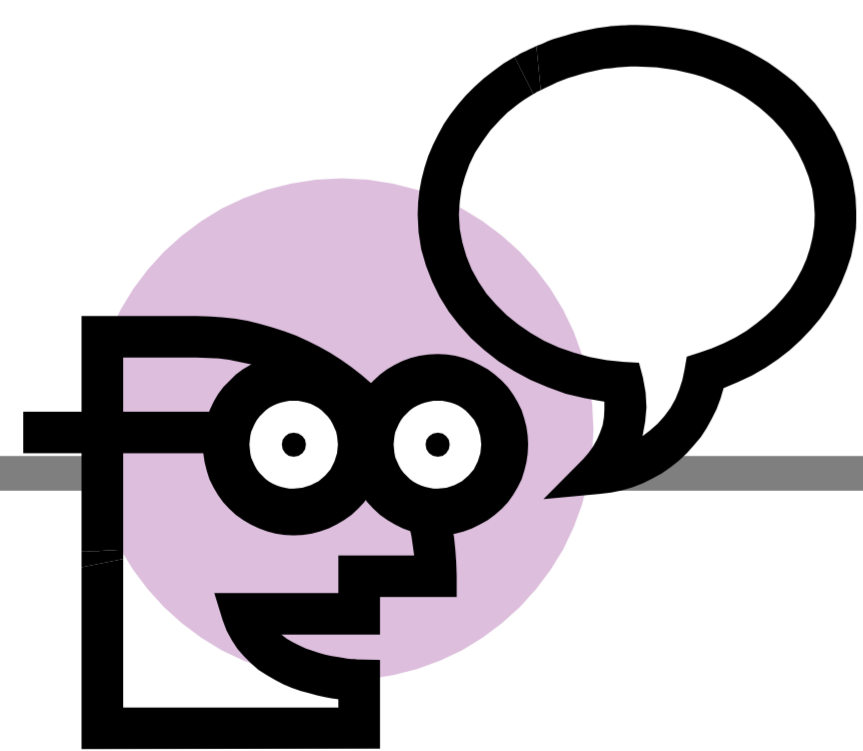
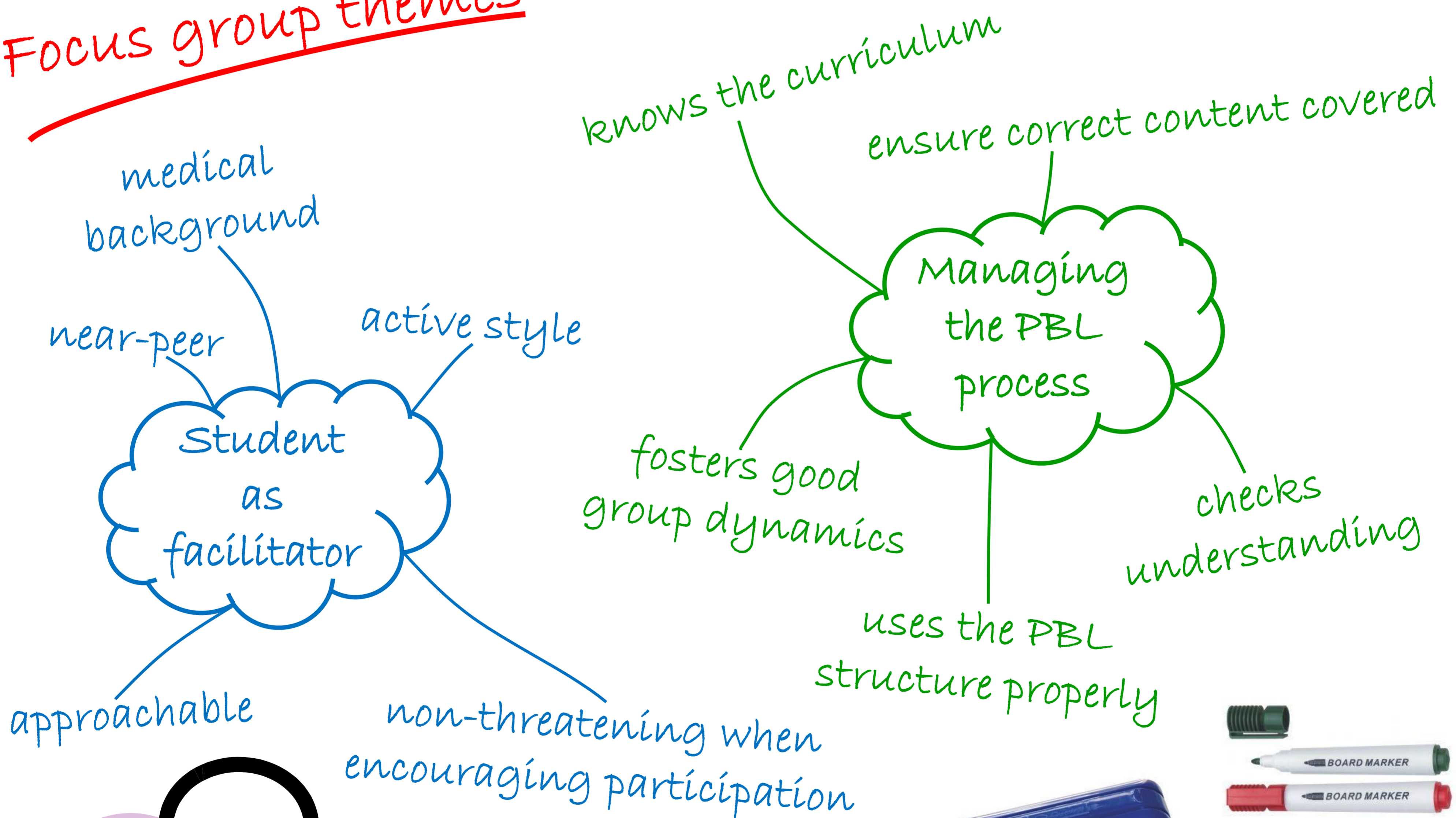
Background

- Small number of senior medical students acting as PBL facilitators for junior students
- Anecdotal evidence of mutually beneficial experience
- Qualitative study using focus groups to explore advantages and disadvantages of having a senior student PBL facilitator

Methods

- Four senior medical students facilitated four groups of first year medical students
- Four focus groups held, covering 24 students
- Conducted at end of academic year after exposure to both student and faculty facilitator for comparison
- Thematic analysis (NVIVO 10)

Focus group themes



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Take home messages

- Senior students can make excellent PBL facilitators
- Curriculum familiarity and approachability key to success
- Utility limited by time commitment required and provision availability of appropriate supervision
- *Many themes relate to 'good facilitators' rather than student facilitators*