NEW ROLES FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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New roles for TAs
Think – Pair – Share

What do your TAs do that’s different or new?

• In-Class or Lab or Tutorials
• Course Development and Organization
• TA Professional Development
• Involvement in Education Research Projects
In Class (or lab or tutorial)

• Run clickers and peer instruction
• Assistant with lecture activities
  – Collect misconceptions
• Teach skills rather than just content
  – e.g. using Peerwise, peer review

New roles for TAs
Course Development & Organization

• Just in Time Teaching
  – Extracting misconceptions
  – Analyzing/marking responses

• Head TA roles
  – Eliciting feedback from TAs about course content
  – Developing new classroom activities, clicker questions, or labs
  – Re-designing or evaluating activities
Involvement in Education Research Projects

• Through directed studies projects they could...
  – Interview Students
  – Observe students or TAs in class
  – Analyzing student work and assessments
  – Publish!!!
TA Training

• Coordinating TA training programs

• Head TAs
  – Prepare TAs on pedagogy of labs/tutorials
    • How to teach
    • Develop presentations for TAs to use in class

• Mentor TAs
Why do these roles exist?

New roles for TAs
Why?

More interactions with students
- Face time in class and labs

Students themselves
- Student perspective
- Closer to novice

Future Professors
- Investment into future instructors

Inspired
- Motivated from their own experiences (good or bad)

New roles for TAs
Let’s hear it from the TAs themselves

TA Panel

New roles for TAs