

To Badge or Not?

Towards an intersection of neoliberalism and information literacy
instruction

Workshop for Instruction in Library Use
2016



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Agenda

- Badges Background
- Neoliberalism (in less than 5 minutes)
- Project Background
- Our Study
- To badge or not?
- Discussion

Jost Lottes



A badge is a ***visual representation*** of a skill, achievement, disposition, or knowledge gained.





1

2

3

Social Gerontology

Fall 2014

- In person
- 45 students
- Information literacy curriculum with badges
- In-person library instruction, 3 sessions

Winter 2015

- Online
- 53 students
- Information literacy curriculum without badges
- Online activities, feedback on all IL assignments from librarian



"I don't want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career. I don't want to sell anything bought or processed, or buy anything sold or processed, or process anything sold, bought, or processed, or repair anything sold, bought, or processed."
-Lloyd Dobler, Say Anything

*re*THINK
PSU

towards graduation

CONTAINING
COSTS

BEING
ACCOUNT
to students + policy m

NEW LEARNING
TECHNOLO













PSU & Public Health Education



Instruments

- Pre- and post- surveys
- Information literacy skills confidence/use/perceptions
- Student approaches to learning
 - E.g. Knowing what I'm going to learn and how I will use it is essential, important, don't care...
- Badges post-survey inquired about badge utility and use

Please rate how confident you are with the following research and information skills (the more stars the more confidence!):

Using Google or other search engines	
Evaluating websites/ information sources	
Choosing and defining my research topic	
Distinguishing between different kinds of information (e.g. scholarly vs popular, etc)	
Choosing quality information sources	
Choosing library databases to search	
Choosing keywords to use in a search	
Creating effective searches (using AND and OR)	
Modifying my search to retrieve more relevant search results	
Choosing search results relevant to my research	
Properly citing sources/ avoiding plagiarism	
Understanding peer review	

Please group the following sentence beginnings with their appropriate endings.

Items

Knowing what I'm going to learn in any given class is...

Knowing what I'm going to learn in any given assignment is...

Knowing why I'm going to learn something...

Knowing how I'm going to use the things I learn after I'm done with a class...

Knowing how I'm going to use what I learn in class after I graduate is...

Being able to show others what I've learned is...

...essential to my learning.

...useful for my learning, but not necessary.

...unnecessary for my learning.

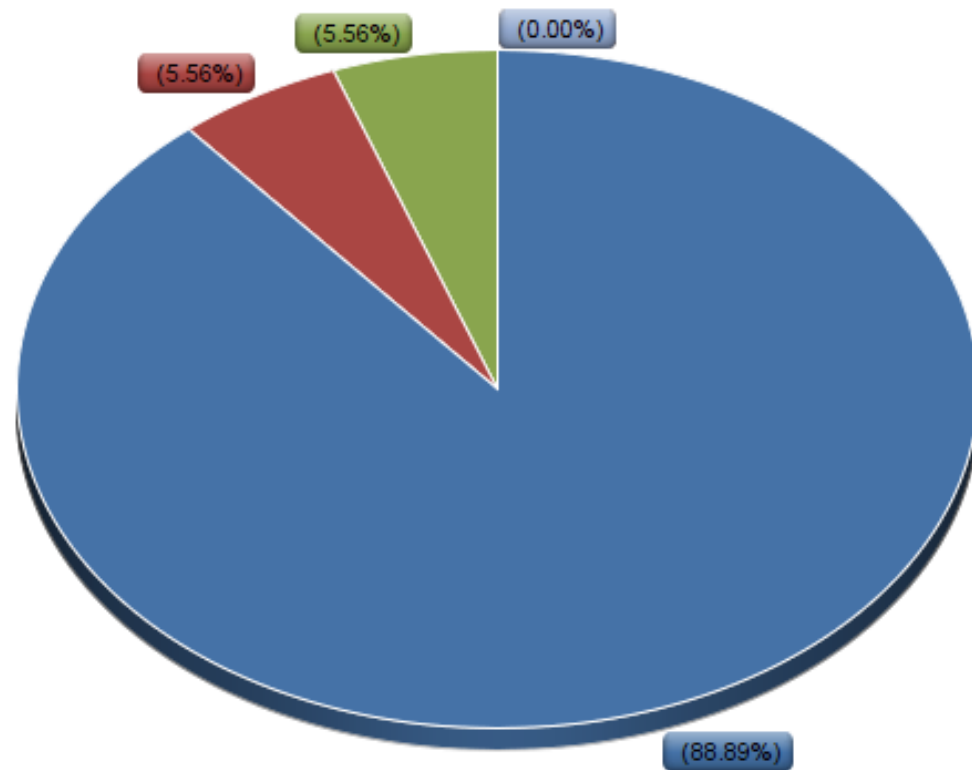
General Findings

- Student skills confidence higher after course
- Increased use in library resources after course
- Post-survey comparison shows higher student confidence in IL skills after the course with badges than the course without badges.
- Students' desire for transparent learning outcomes much higher in badges/in-person courses

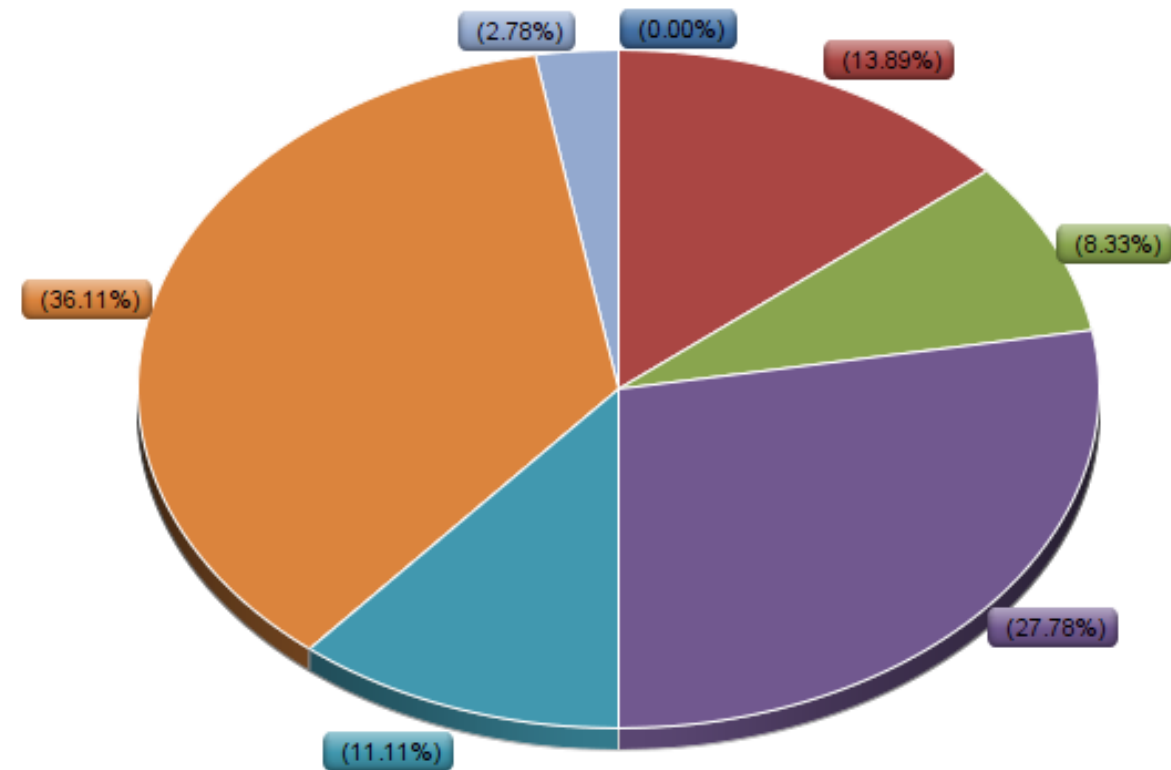
Frequency of Use – Without badges – Pre-survey

■ Daily ■ 2-3 Times a Week ■ Once a Week ■ 2-3 Times a Month ■ Once a Month ■ Less than Once a Month ■ Never

Using Google or other search engines



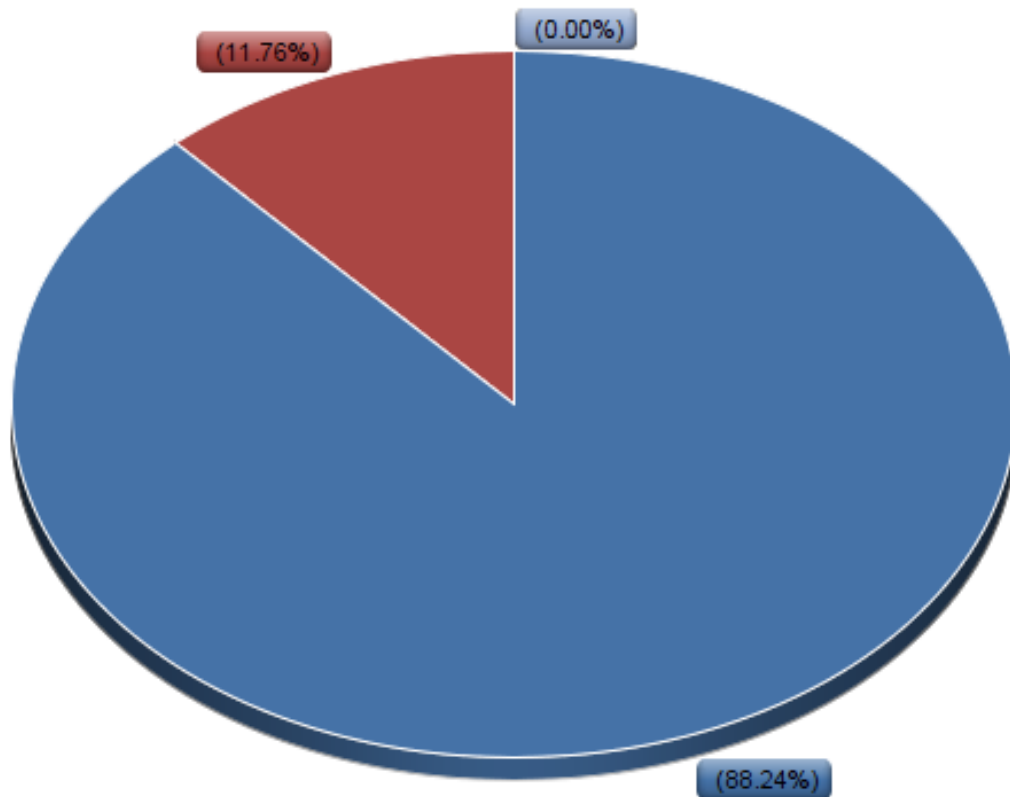
Choosing library databases to search



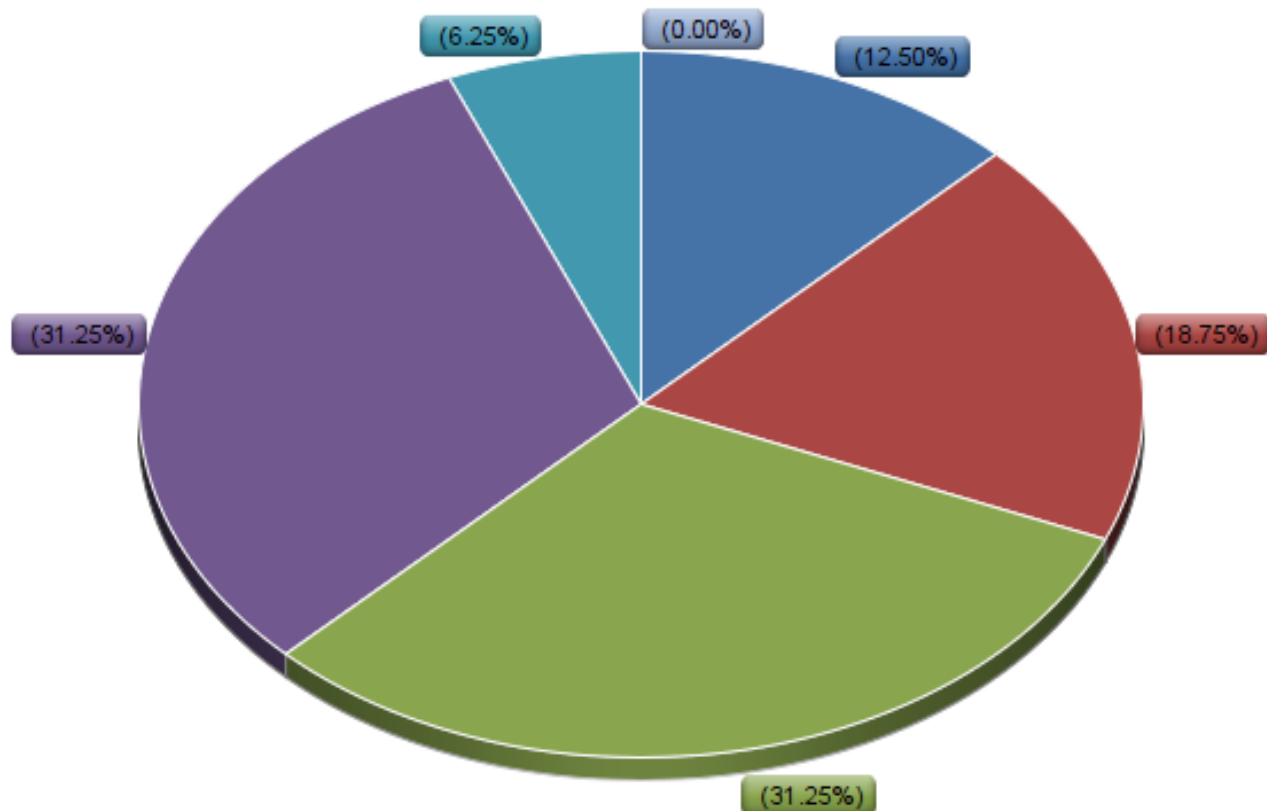
Frequency of Use – Without Badges – Post-survey

■ Daily ■ 2-3 Times a Week ■ Once a Week ■ 2-3 Times a Month ■ Once a Month ■ Less than Once a Month ■ Never

Using Google or other search engines

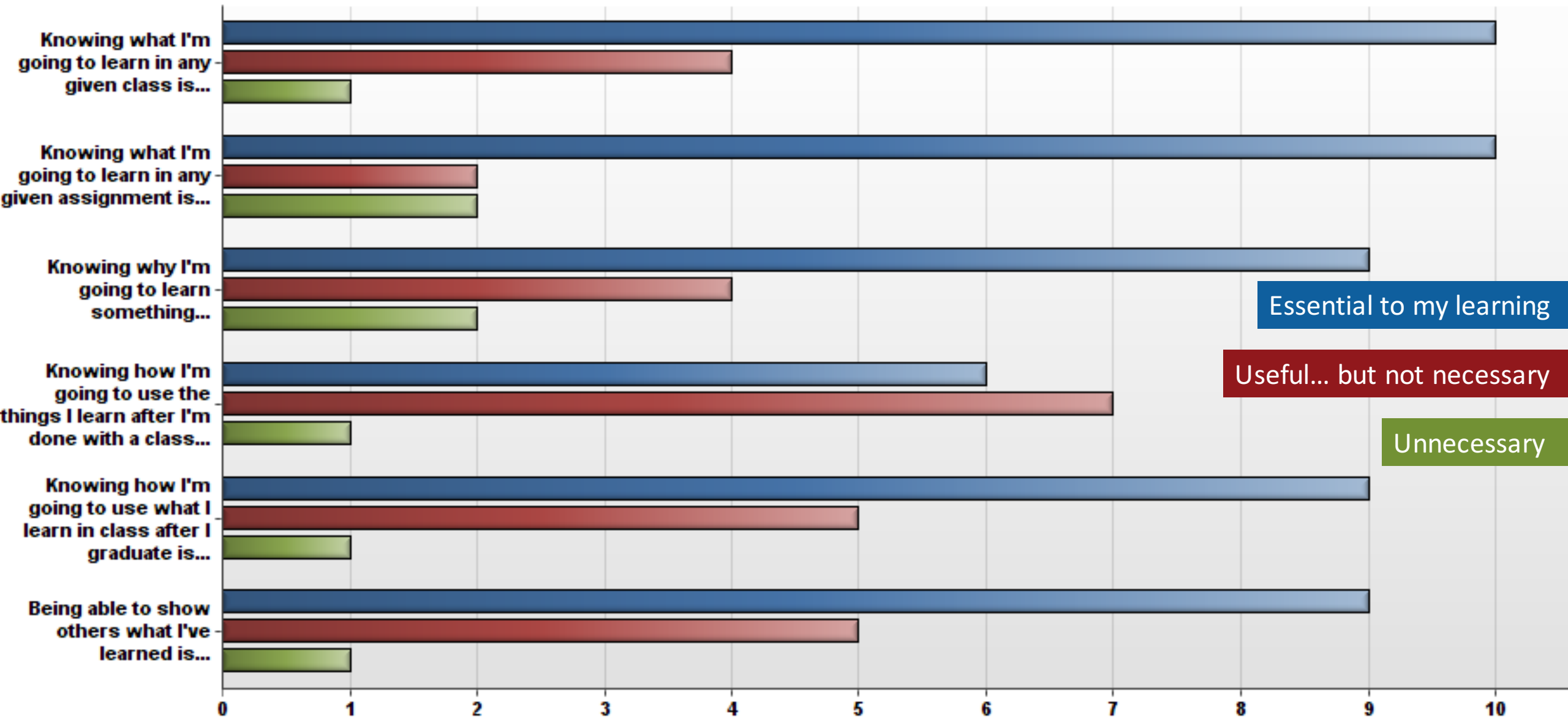


Choosing library databases to search

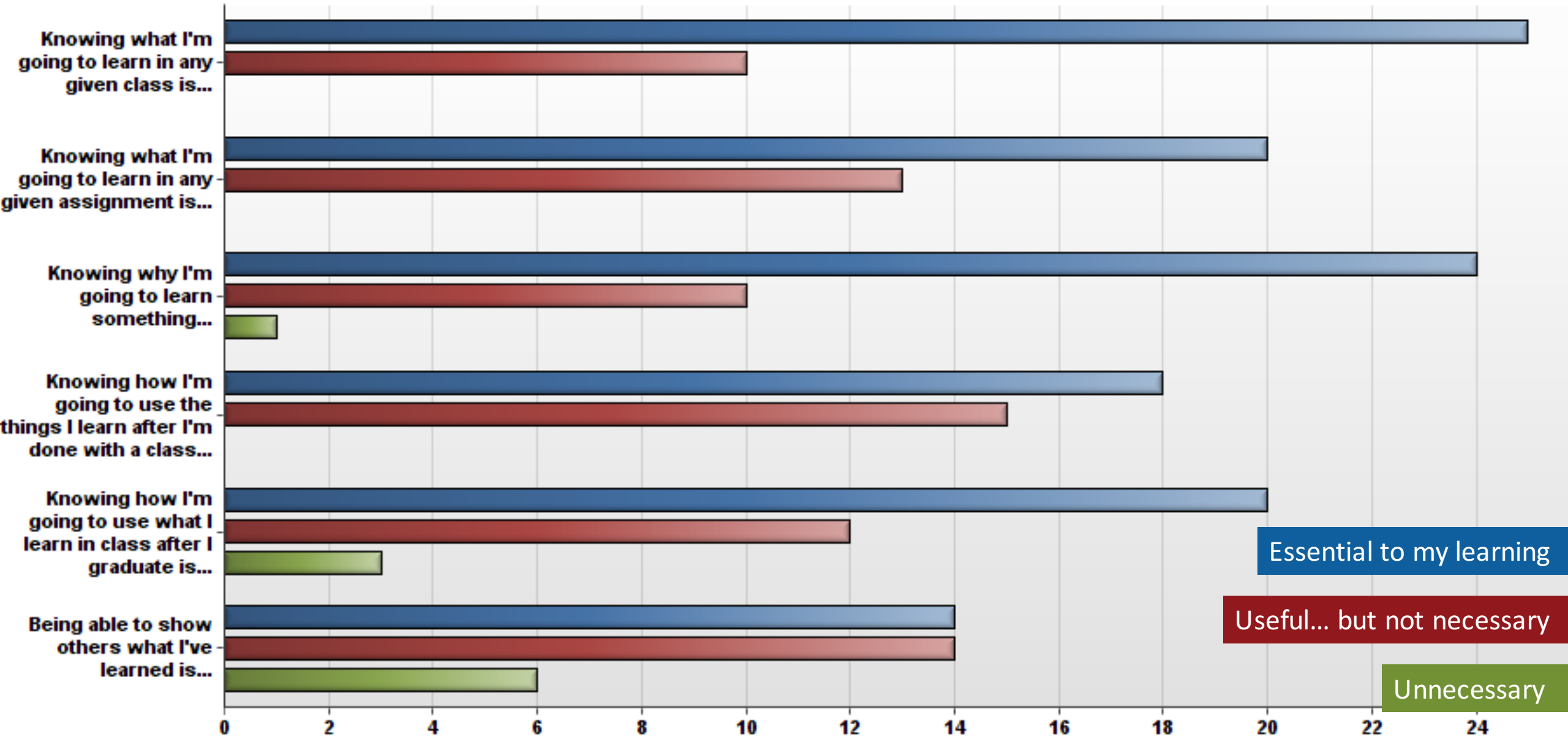


Please rate how confident you are with the following information/research skills.	With Badges - Post	Without Badges - Post
Using Google or other search engines	4.80	4.53
Evaluating websites/ information sources	4.47	4.41
Choosing and defining my research topic	4.47	3.94
Distinguishing between different kinds of information (e.g. scholarly vs popular, etc)	4.80	4.29
Choosing quality information sources	4.73	4.35
Choosing library databases to search	4.60	3.88
Choosing keywords to use in a search	4.47	4.12
Creating effective searches (using AND and OR)	4.47	4.24
Modifying my search to retrieve more relevant search results	4.60	4.29
Choosing search results relevant to my research	4.80	4.47
Properly citing sources/ avoiding plagiarism	4.40	4.35
Understanding peer review	4.60	4.41

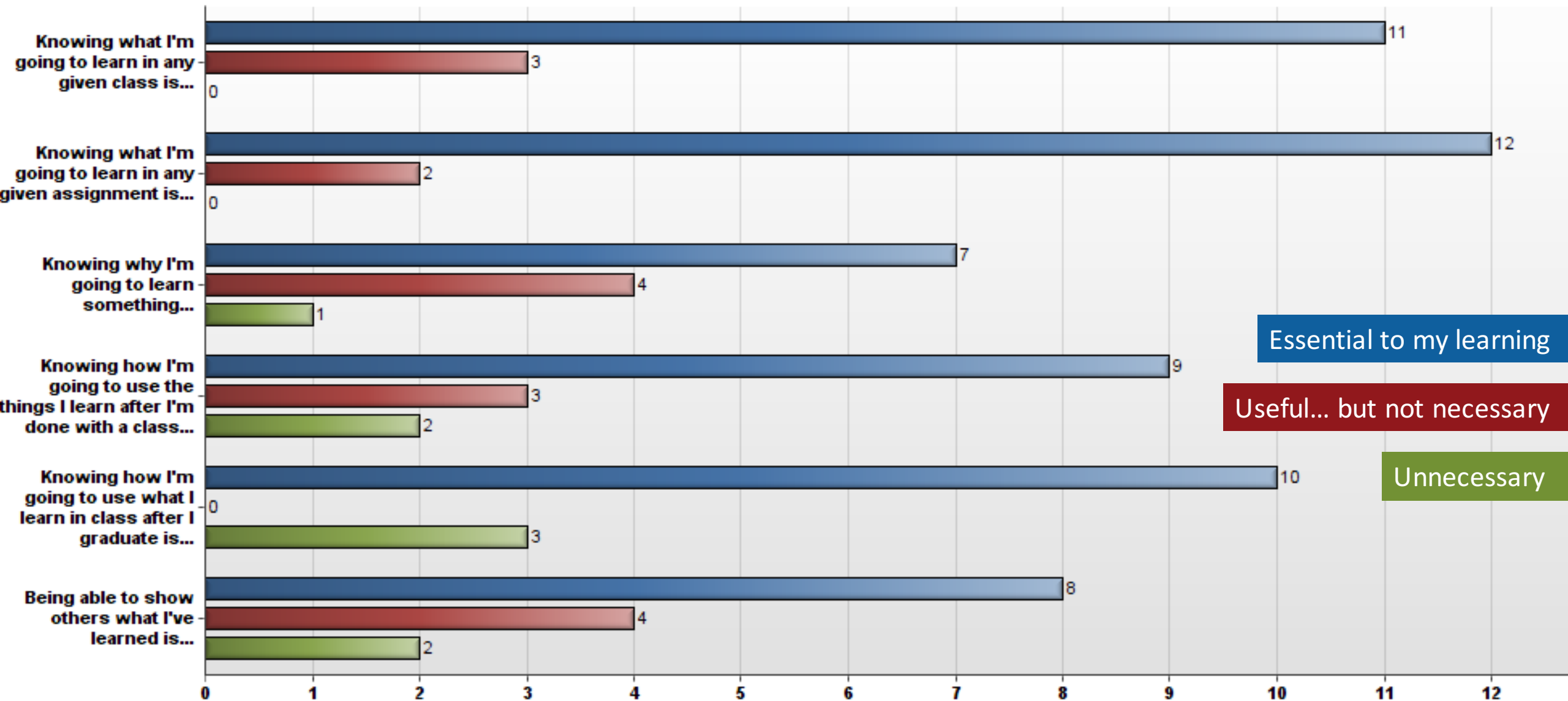
With Badges - Pre-Survey



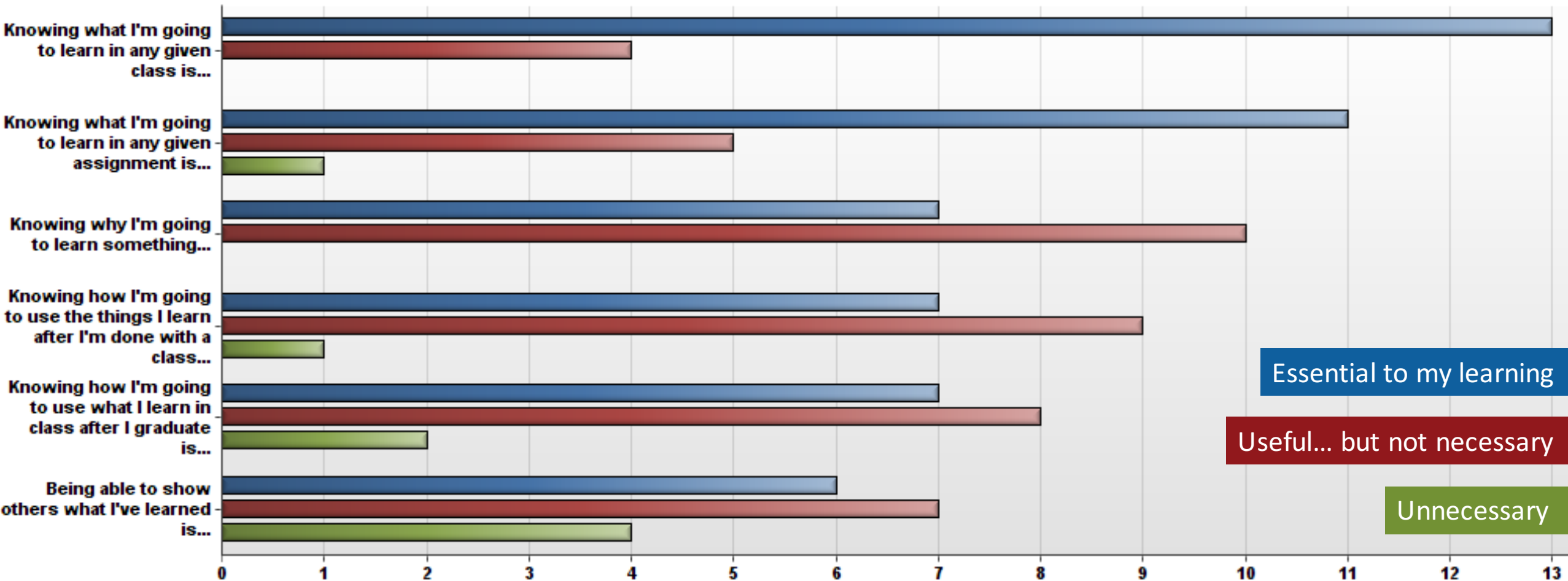
Without Badges - Pre-Survey



With Badges - post-survey



Without Badges - Post-Survey



Limitations



Photo by [Chris White](https://flic.kr/p/6k5ir8)
<https://flic.kr/p/6k5ir8>



So...to badge or not?



Readings

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