Author's response to reviews

Title: Challenging students to formulate written questions: a randomized controlled trial to assess learning effects

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editor  
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**Section: Approaches to teaching and learning**

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Concerning: Author reply

Dear Editor,

When developing the current study the ethical principles of the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki were taken into account. As this study was not subjected to an ethical approval process for medical education research, information about the treatment of the students was provided in the methods section of manuscript. Retrospective review by the Ethical Committee of the Netherlands Association for Medical Education was asked for, but the the Committee does not accept retrospective applications, since no changes can be made. A follow up study using the same intervention currently in preparation was reviewed prospectively and approved by Ethical Committee of the Netherlands Association for Medical Education. Based on the four principles that are currently used by this Ethical Committee, we consider our study congruent with the current ethical framework used in the Netherlands. These principles include: i. Justification: the research design was valid and will generate valuable knowledge ii. Respect for participants: the participants were adequately informed, participation was voluntary and written consent was obtained. iii. Beneficence: benefits for the participants was maximized and harm was minimized iv. Justice: the treatment of the participants was equitable. The ethical considerations are now described in more detail in the methods section of the revised manuscript.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of all authors,

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References: