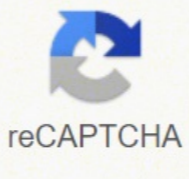


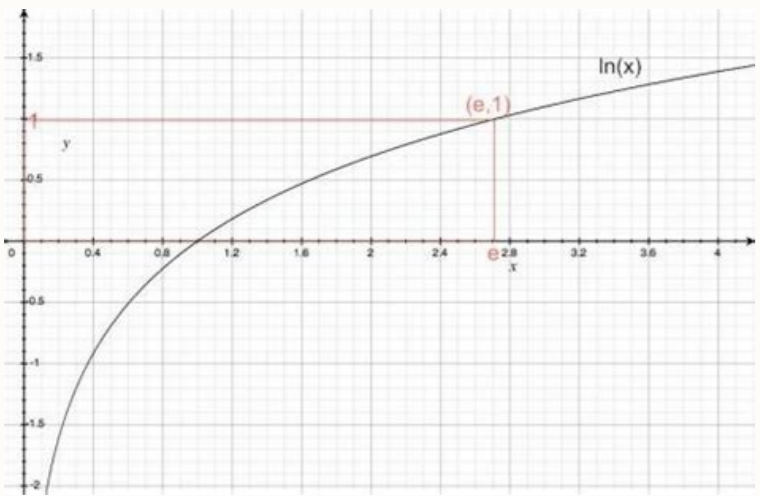
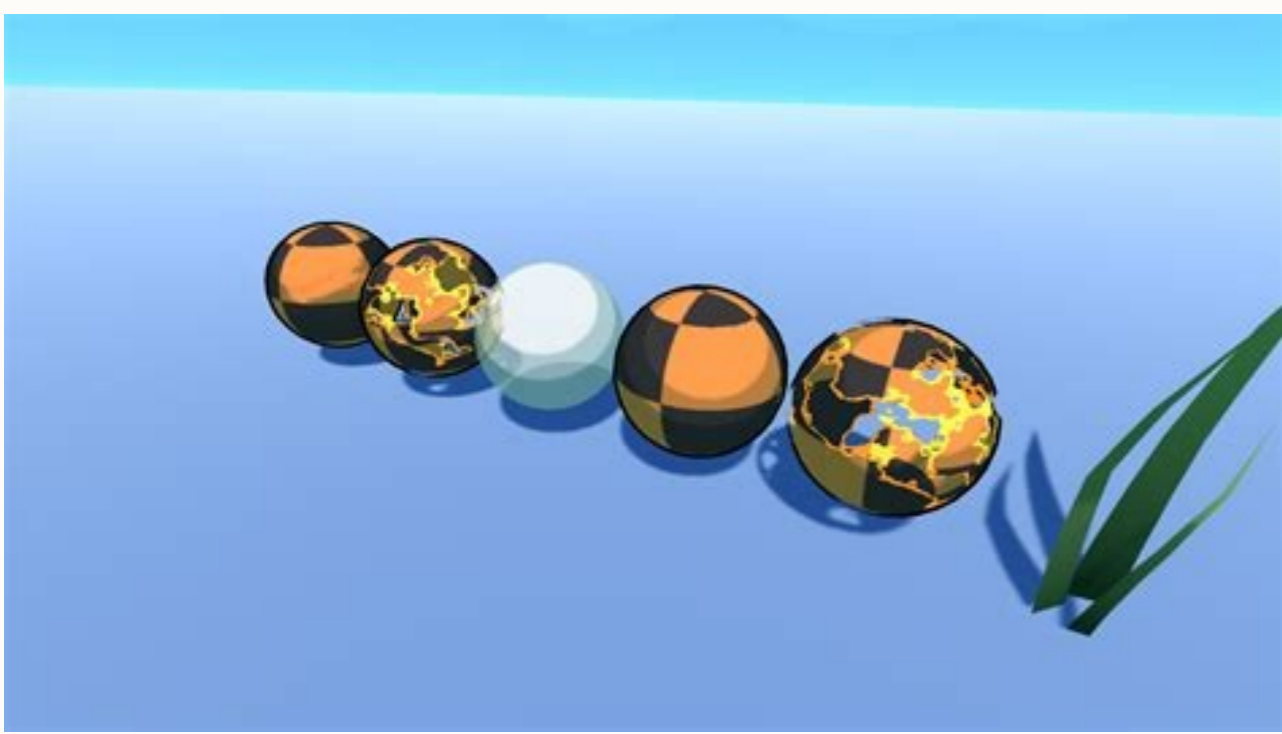
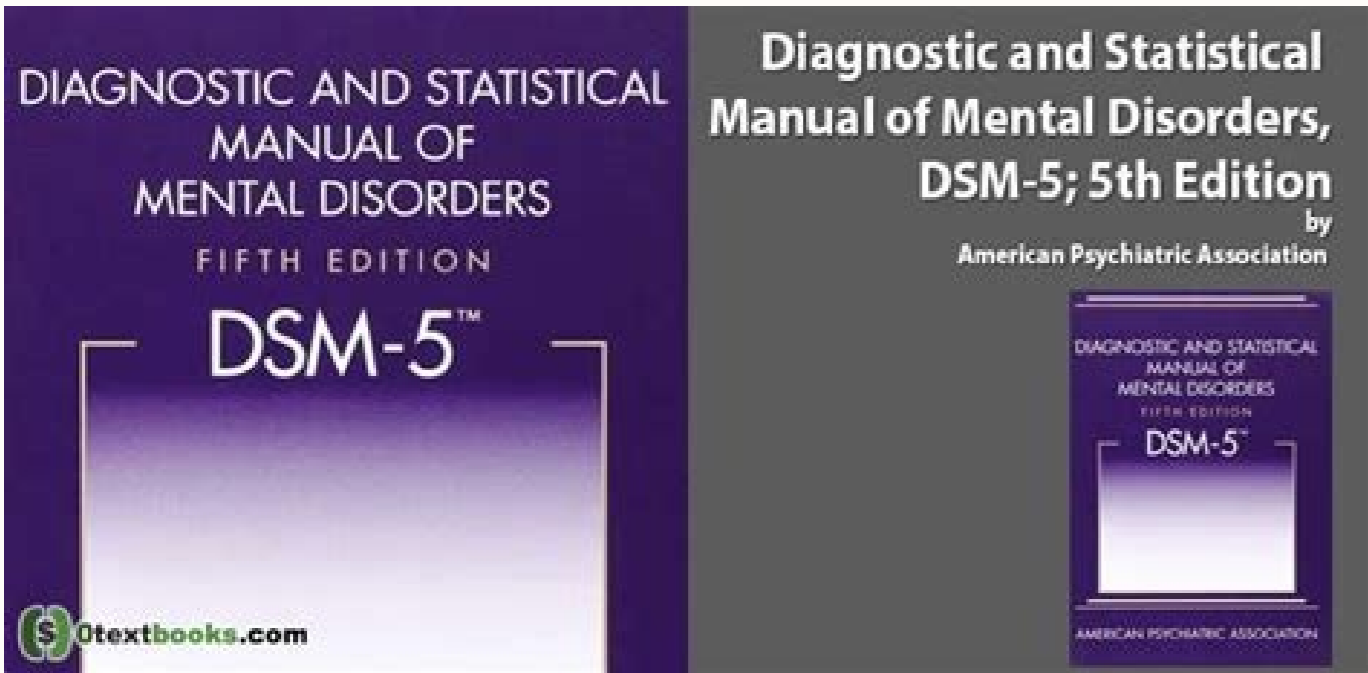
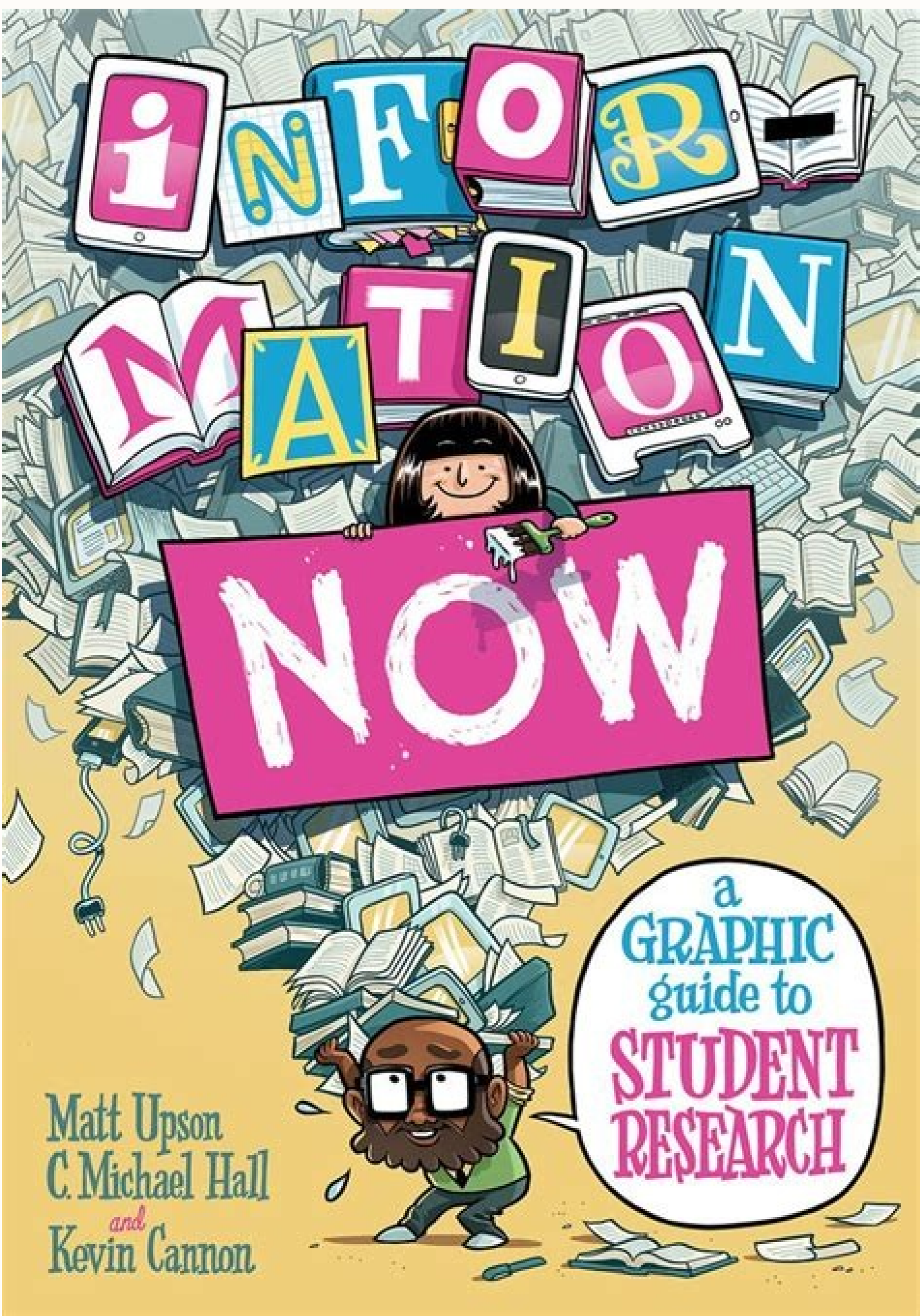


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CME Article

Focus group discussion: a tool for health and medical research

Wong L P

ABSTRACT

Focus group discussion is a research methodology in which a small group of participants gather to discuss a specified topic or an issue to generate data. The main characteristic of a focus group is the interaction between the moderator and the group, as well as the interaction between group members. The objective is to give the researcher an understanding of the participants' perspective on the topic in discussion. Focus groups are rapidly gaining popularity in health and medical research. This paper presents a general introduction of the use of focus groups as a research tool within the context of health research, with the intention of promoting its use among researchers in healthcare. A detailed methodology for the conduct of focus groups and analysis of focus group data are discussed. The potentials and limitations of this qualitative research technique are also highlighted.

Keywords: focus group discussion, healthcare research, medical research, qualitative research technique

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INTRODUCTION

Focus group discussion is a form of qualitative research method in which the interviewer (also called the moderator) asks research participants specific questions about a topic or an issue in a group discussion. Focus groups, unlike individual interviews, provide the added dimension of the interactions among members. In conducting the focus group, the emphasis should be placed on the interaction among group members. Instead of the moderator asking questions, the group members are encouraged to communicate with one another, exchanging ideas and comments on each other's experiences or points of view.⁽¹⁾

PURPOSE

Focus group discussions are frequently used to obtain knowledge, perspectives and attitudes of people about issues, and seek explanations for behaviours in a way that would be less easily accessible in responses to direct questions, as in one-to-one interviews.^(2,3) Group

discussions help researchers tap into many different forms of communication that people use in day-to-day interaction, including jokes, anecdotes, teasing, and arguments. There is a tendency that during group discussions, attitudes and perceptions are developed through interaction with others in the groups.⁽²⁾ In this sense, focus groups showed dimensions of understanding that often remain unstapped or inaccessible by other forms of data collection.⁽⁵⁾

In the context of healthcare and medical research, focus groups are particularly apt due to the fact that most health-related conditions are created by social environments and made within the social context.⁽⁶⁾ Thus, focus groups are a popular method for assessing public experience and understanding of illness,^(5,6) identifying ideas concerning health-risk behaviours and danger,^(6,7) and discovering the public's perception of causes of diseases.⁽⁸⁾ Focus groups are also exceptionally effective for study of sensitive issues as well as issues that are difficult to access, such as acute mental distress, HIV/AIDS, or sexual health issues. They can also be used to gain insights into people's experiences of ill health and health services,^(9,10) and explore the attitudes and needs of healthcare providers.⁽¹¹⁾

In the literature, focus groups have been used to examine a wide range of health- and medical-related issues, including, for example:

- People's attitudes toward smoking and second-hand smoke;⁽¹²⁾
 - Identification of commonly-used local terminology of symptoms or diseases;⁽¹³⁾
 - Understanding of sexual abuse and associated factors;⁽¹⁴⁾
 - Health needs of gays and lesbians;⁽¹⁵⁾
 - Identification of psychosocial issues of patients.⁽¹⁶⁾
- In relation to health services, focus groups have also been used to explore issues, such as:⁽¹⁷⁾
- Professional responses to changing management arrangements;⁽¹⁷⁾
 - Developing ways to improve medical education and professional development.⁽¹⁸⁾

PROCEDURE

Conducting a focus group requires a high level of resources. The process involves formulating research questions, developing protocols, soliciting participants, arranging venues, facilitating focus groups, transcribing, analysing data, and reporting the findings.

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Many cartoonists also offer free, in-depth tutorials that teach all sorts of basics, including tricks like how to draw hands or the best way to draw realistic hair. Gonick's The Cartoon Guide to Calculus is a refreshingly humorous, remarkably thorough guide to general calculus that, like his earlier Cartoon Guide to Physics and Cartoon History of the Modern World, will prove a boon to students, educators, and eager learners everywhere. Mathematics Comics VDOC.PUB Authors: Larry Gonick PDF Mathematics Download Embed This document was uploaded by our user. Product Details ISBN: 9780061689093 ISBN 10: 0061689092 Imprint: HarperCollins US On Sale: 27/03/2012 Pages: 256 List Price: 34.99 AUD BISAC1: MATHEMATICS / General item_group_id books Media > Books X Subscribe to the BookBliss Newsletter for deals, giveaways and exclusive early sneak peeks. He lives in San Francisco, California. Art classes or a more official art education program may have helped make them make big leaps forward. Gonick's The Cartoon Guide to Calculus is a refreshingly humorous, remarkably thorough guide to general calculus that, like his earlier Cartoon Guide to Physics and Cartoon History of the Modern World, will prove a boon to students, educators, and eager learners everywhere. Larry Gonick's clever and delightful answer is to have characters talking, commenting, and joking—all while rigorously teaching equations and concepts and indicating calculus's utility. Larry Gonick proves me wrong. Jump to ratings and reviews "In Gonick's work, clever design and illustration make complicated ideas or insights strikingly clear." —New York Times Book Review Larry Gonick, master cartoonist, former Harvard instructor, and creator of the New York Times bestselling, Harvey Award-winning Cartoon Guide series now does for calculus what he previously did for science and history: making a complex subject comprehensible, fascinating, and fun through witty text and light-hearted graphics. N. If you're into cartooning, start doodling. A Few Lines Can Change Expressions Changing a character's expression could be as simple as moving a mouth line in a different direction or lowering eyes. It's a remarkable accomplishment—and a lot of fun." — Lisa Randall, Professor of Physics, Harvard University, and author of Knocking on Heaven's Door Gonick is to graphical expositions of advanced materials as Newton or Leibniz is to calculus. Using clear and helpful graphics—and delightful humor to lighten what is frequently a tough subject—he teaches all of the essentials, with numerous examples and problem sets. For instance, if you have two dots for eyes, a capital L for a nose, a line for a mouth and two squiggles for eyebrows, you have enough on your paper to make a ton of expressions. Figure Out What Your Cartoon Style Is While it's fun to draw versions of your favorite cartoon characters, you'll have a lot more fun if you create your own character. — Amy Langville, Recipient of the Distinguished Researcher Award at College of Charleston and South Carolina Faculty of the Year - ISBN: 9780061689093 ISBN 10: 0061689092 Imprint: William Morrow Paperbacks On Sale: 12/27/2011 Trimsize: 7.380 in (w) x 9.250 in (h) x 0.640 in (d) Pages: 256 List Price: \$19.99 BISAC1 : COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / Reference BISAC2 : MATHEMATICS / Calculus BISAC3 : STUDY AIDS / Study Guides BISAC4 : COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / General If you've always wanted to create your own cartoon but didn't have any skills, cartooning must've seemed like a faraway dream that would never materialize. He has been a calculus instructor at Harvard (where he earned his BA and MA in mathematics) and a Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT, and he is currently staff cartoonist for Muse magazine. For the curious and confused alike, The Cartoon Guide to Calculus is the perfect combination of entertainment and education—a valuable supplement for any student, teacher, parent, or professional. — Susan Holmes, Professor of Statistics, Stanford A creative take on an old, and for many, tough subject...Gonick's cartoons and intelligent humor make it a fun read. Series: Cartoon Guide Series Year: 2,011 Pages: 259 Pages In File: 259 Language: English Topic: 113 Identifier: 978-0061689093 Org File Size: 64,070,376 Extension: pdf Tags: Calculus Toc: Cover.....Page 2 Praise for Larry Gonick and His Work.....Page 4 Also by Larry Gonick.....Page 7 Title Page.....Page 8 Copyright Page.....Page 9 Contents.....Page 10 Acknowledgments.....Page 11 Initial Conditions.....Page 13 Speed, Velocity, Change.....Page 14 Meet the Functions.....Page 24 Limits.....Page 66 The Derivative.....Page 90 Chain, Chain, Chain.....Page 114 Using Derivatives, Part 1: Related Rates.....Page 130 Using Derivatives, Part 2: Optimization.....Page 138 Acting Locally.....Page 158 The Mean Value Theorem.....Page 168 Introducing Integration.....Page 174 Antiderivatives.....Page 182 The Definite Integral.....Page 190 Fundamentally.....Page 200 Shape-Shifting Integrals.....Page 208 Using Integrals.....Page 218 What's Next?.....Page 242 Index.....Page 246 About the Author.....Page 256 See What You Can Learn with Cartoons!.....Page 257 From the Back Cover: A complete—and completely enjoyable—new illustrated guide to calculus Master cartoonist Larry Gonick has already given readers the history of the world in cartoon form. This involvement helps them create more. Check Out Cartoonist Communities on YouTube There are tons of cartoonist communities on YouTube. The characters can be representative of the artist, or they can be a completely made-up being. These communities are treasure troves for people who want to learn everything from how to draw characters to the best animation programs for people who are ready to take their characters to the next level. Many artists create "OCs," or original characters, which are essentially their own creations. MORE FROM QUESTIONS ANSWERED.NET Book Overview Author Info and Events "In Gonick's work, clever design and illustration make complicated ideas or insights strikingly clear." —New York Times Book Review Larry Gonick, master cartoonist, former Harvard instructor, and creator of the New York Times bestselling, Harvey Award-winning Cartoon Guide series now does for calculus what he previously did for science and history: making a complex subject comprehensible, fascinating, and fun through witty text and light-hearted graphics. If you are author/publisher or own the copyright of this documents, please report to us by using this DMCA report form. A spunky tool-toting heroine called Delta Wye seems the perfect role model for our next generation. As time went on, they naturally got better at their craft. — David Mumford, Professor emeritus of Applied Mathematics at Brown University and recipient of the National Medal of Science I always thought that there are no magic tricks that use calculus. They most likely were the ones doodling away in their notebooks when they were little. About the Author: Larry Gonick has been creating comics that explain math, history, science, and other big subjects for more than forty years. "How do you humanize calculus and bring its equations and concepts to life? Artists tend to get more emotionally involved with characters they create themselves. The following tips can get you started. Take Expression Cues From Real Life One of the best ways to nail a cartoon character's expression is to watch the way people make expressions in real life. The good news is that even people who think they can't draw can learn the basics. Expressions are formed by features like wide eyes, raised eyebrows, scrunched foreheads and deep frowns. "About this title" may belong to another edition of this title. His book is correct, clear and interesting. Even the jokers in the back row will ace the course with this book. Jones Professor of Statistics and Department Chair, Harvard University Larry Gonick's sparkling and inventive drawings make a vivid picture out of every one of the hundreds of formulas that underlie Calculus. — Xiao-Li Meng, Whipple V. Now, Gonick, a Harvard-trained mathematician, offers a comprehensive and up-to-date illustrated course in first-year calculus that demystifies the world of functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals. — Persi Diaconis, Professor of Mathematics, Stanford It has no mean derivative results about the only derivatives that matter.... Report DMCA Larry Gonick, master cartoonist, former Harvard instructor, and creator of the New York Times bestselling, Harvey Award-winning Cartoon Guide series now does for calculus what he previously did for science and history: making a complex subject comprehensible, fascinating, and fun through witty text and light-hearted graphics. It is filled with magical insights into this most beautiful subject. "In Gonick's work, clever design and illustration make complicated ideas or insights strikingly clear." —New York Times Book Review Larry Gonick, master cartoonist, former Harvard instructor, and creator of the New York Times bestselling, Harvey Award-winning Cartoon Guide series now does for calculus what he previously did for science and history: making a complex subject comprehensible, fascinating, and fun through witty text and light-hearted graphics. The difference is that Gonick has no rival. The uploader already confirmed that they had the permission to publish it. Look at the way human faces make these expressions, and try and replicate them in your drawings. Most Cartooners Are Self-Taught Most people don't realize that many of the top animators and illustrators are self-taught.

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