



Pedagogical Assessment of: Skype

Website: www.skype.com

Usage

Skype allows its users to connect with other people from all over the world via messages, voice and video calls. When it is used in learning environments, students can connect with other students, educators or interesting people who can help them to expand their horizons.

In the classroom, it allows students and educators to collaborate with other classes. Foreign-language teachers can take advantage of it in order to reinforce second-language acquisition by partnering with a class in another country.





Ease of Access

Skype is a free and easy-to-use tool. Teachers and students only need to download the app from their website and create an account in order to use it.

Pedagogical Assessment

Skype helps to extend the learning experience beyond the walls of a classroom. It provides students with the chance to meet new interesting people, talk to experts, share ideas and files, and become engaged with an interactive learning experience.

Using skype is more interactive and engaging for students because they are provided with greater responsibility e.g. asking questions, directing the flow of a conversation based on a topic of study. Being able to connect with experts in a field studied relevant to a course is of great benefit as it helps to familiarise students with practices in different parts of the world, making learning more meaningful and connected.

Moreover, for distance learners, it provides a good opportunity to meet with their educators in a more personal way, which helps to improve their learning and helps the learner to feel more comfortable with asking questions if they encounter any difficulty.

Reviews:

“Skype alone is nothing and has no pedagogical merit, you have to create the situation to make it a powerful tool. Find another classroom, just type ‘Skype Pen Pals’ into Google, and talk to them through Skype before exchanging letters. If you find an interesting person in a field your students are studying, send them an e-mail and see if they’ll Skype with you! This is a great "world expanding" and "background knowledge building" tool, once you create the use case for it.”- Marcello S. (Educator)

<http://bit.ly/2dVNiPa>





Advantages

- It is free to download and install.
- It has specific apps for many different devices including mobiles, TV's and the Xbox One.
- It has a very detailed FAQ. Moreover, it offers a section aimed at educators called Skype in the Classroom.

Disadvantages

- Sound quality can be limited.
- Connection problems can appear when trying to set it up.

Conclusion

Skype is a popular tool that can be used in order to make free voice and video calls to another place in the world. It creates great educational opportunities and it can help to expand the walls of a classroom

