digital wellbeing educators

Pedagogical Assessment of: Nearpod

Website: https://nearpod.com/

Usage

Nearpod is a multiplatform, blended learning e-learning tool that allows students to engage with each other, and the lecturer, in real time. It opens the classroom up and allows each student to engage with the lecture content, through his or her digital device. Classes become student centred and Nearpod-based learning activities can help harvest the understanding within the student cohort.

Usages

Teachers can use Nearpod to support student learning in a variety of ways. Give students opportunities for interaction and immediate feedback by having them respond to a poll question, post a note or image to a collaboration board, or take a multiple-choice quiz.

Nearpod can help students review key learning concepts by watching videos, reviewing notes, or taking their own notes. It also facilitates the educator the opportunity to incorporate digital citizenship skills with pre-created lessons on empathy, cyberbullying, or Internet safety. Thousands of certified publisher- and educator-created lessons are available for use or modification, some for free and others at reasonable prices.

Ease of access

Students can interact, engage and participate by Nearpod's synchronous and asynchronous learning activities created by the academic. These range from slide annotations (the 'draw it' function) to quizzes and onto virtual tours supported by the Nearpod technology.

The interactions are organised in real time, and can be shared back to students in class, to initiate debate or clarify concepts, or after class to act as a student created learning resource. Students can engage either via a dedicated smartphone app or via the web portal that can be linked to the students Google account if required.

Pedagogical assessment

Nearpod address two current learning trends in a simple and cost-effective way; Bring Your Own Device and the Flipped Classroom pedagogy. Additionally, integrating this technology also assists in other challenges faced in higher education such as improving digital literacy, and the increase of blended learning.

From a student's perspective, facilitating the use of engaging technology into the learning environment can enhance the students learning experience as it allows academics to adapt learning activities to the specific learner's style, pace and learning needs. In doing so, the learning environment evolves towards a student-orientated space where the students take ownership for their participation in the learning activity.

Advantages

- Immediate student and teacher feedback- When a teacher posts a formative assessment option such as a quiz, poll etc they are able to see the student's response in real time.

- Synchronous devices- utilize Nearpod's live mode, when the educator swipes their device, student devices synchronized and progress through the lesson as the teacher swipes.

- Ownership of learning with student notes.

- Quick plan B when needed- With Nearpod, you can quickly export a Nearpod lesson as a PDF and allow that student to complete the lesson on paper.

Disadvantages

- The primary disadvantage is the requirement for Internet connectivity to run in-class activities. Some learning spaces may not be equipped to deal with a large number of students simultaneously logging onto the network.
- Additionally, students are required to have an Internet compatible smart device (phone, tablet, laptop); however, this can be mitigated by utilising group-based interactions.
- A free version of the Nearpod licence is available to all educators however this limits the number of students that can simultaneously enter the 'virtual room' that hosts the Nearpod activities. This can be circumvented by group-based activities or purchase of an annual subscription (cost varies with student number).

Reviews

"Presentations are interactive, collaborative, and engaging for students"
-V. George (teacher)

"Nearpod has been one of the best tools we have worked with so far! I love it and everything about its functionality!!"

-W. Cameron (lecturer)
https://www.commonsense.org/education/app/nearpod/teacher-reviews