

HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS WITH ONLINE LEARNING

The aim of this presentation is to produce some simple ideas that you can implement within your Online offering that will help to engage your students- especially those that study via distance and have little or no face to face contact with academic staff or students.

The increase in students choosing to study partially or fully online is growing increasingly; due to the demands and pressures of both work and family commitments.

So how can we use online technologies to support and encourage students who no longer have any face time with their lecturers and fellow students?

If you are new to teaching online it can be overwhelming to know where to begin – but there are tools and ideas that you can use that do not require a lot of time or effort on your behalf. This presentation will show and tell some ideas of several different online technologies that can be used in an online offering to enhance learning.

These will include:

The R2D2 method as put forward by Josie banks- Read Reflect Display Do

This idea is broken up into four easy steps.

Read – put up some text for your students to read- you can put up several texts and just ask that students read a few of these.

Reflect – get your students to reflect on these texts by using a Blog, Discussion board or ePortfolio. Students can offer critical feedback on other student's opinions.

Display – students can display their learning by using tools such as a concept map or timeline.

Do – have your students do something with web 2.0 content to show that they have learnt- such as creating a podcast.or creating a wikibooks- students can write their own books about a subject- this can be done continuously over a semester.

The R2D2 method will showcase different ideas and links to resources that academics might like to utilise.

The second suggestion for online tools would be to use online feedback as part of online learning. Feedback is vital as part of teaching online. This can be in part an automatic process with the use of Rubrics, or if you are using self assessments or quizzes within

your unit, the feedback can be created and given once they have been submitted. This will encourage your students.

Why not record yourself in a vodcast to give regular news updates or announcements to your students to personalise their learning experience? Or if you are unfamiliar or unsure of this- then at least give regular news updates or announcements of what is going on in your unit.

Create an online space to regularly- this can be done with a program such as Collaborate or you can even create a virtual classroom in Second life.

Use free services such as Google docs or Flickr for online collaboration. Examples of these tools in action can showcase how Universities are utilising these tools within their teaching- such as at Swinburne University

Why not give your students a virtual tour of the area they are studying? There are many free to use tours available on many different topics on the web. For example the BBC has several virtual tours of Ancient England or of the Endeavour. This gives your students a great visual perspective on a topic, with some hands on elements that can get them engaged in the topic.

These are only a few ways that technology is currently being used within the online classroom, and these are evolving daily. I hope that by giving a presentation showcasing a few ideas, that those who have not used these technologies before may come away with some new ways and approaches to their teaching.

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Attribution 4.0 International