Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: group activity

Collection: Online teaching

Resource: Designing learning with new media

Approximate duration

60 minutes

Learning outcomes

By the end of this activity participants should have a clearer understanding of the types of new media that can be used effectively in educational contexts like their own, how and where the new media might be used and have a clearer insight into the implications for their teaching of using different types of new media.

Introduction

Depending on the group's experience with using new media you could structure this section in a number of ways.

- Start by showing one of the two videoclips detailed below where English lecturers talk about how they have incorporated different kinds of new media into their teaching. Alternatively your students could watch these clips before they come to the sessions enabling you to...
- Jump directly to the group-related work based on completing a handout.

The activity

1. Ask the group whether they have used PowerPoint or Facebook in their teaching? Undoubtedly many will have used the former so you might like to tease out

whether they use any of the advanced features of PowerPoint e.g. animations...or whether they encourage their students to use it? If so what kind of feedback did they get from the students?

2. Next show a couple of videoclips illustrating how both PowerPoint and Facebook are being used in English studies (Creative Writing & Induction):

   o The first is a short presentation from the digital poet Judy Kendall. Judy describes how she uses *PowerPoint* to teach Digital Poetry on a Creative Writing module at the University of Salford. (http://vimeo.com/23793023)

Teaching PowerPoint poetry
(http://vimeo.com/23793023)

   o In the second clip, Ruth Page describes how her department used *Facebook* for pre-induction activities online. (http://vimeo.com/23793117)

The advantages of Facebook as a pre-induction tool
(http://vimeo.com/23793117)

3. After you have shown one or both clips you might like to ask participants what they thought about the techniques being used and whether they might use or adapt any of the ideas for use with their students?

4. This group discussion leads to a brainstorming activity where groups discuss the various types of new media that could be used with their students, where they might be used and why. Are there are any challenges or affordances to using it? Below there is a template for a downloadable handout that you might distribute to the participants to help capture their discussions.

Example

Media type	Context	Possible pedagogical uses	Other (e.g. risks..challenges)
Videoclip	lecture	Provide context	technology might not work/ internet connection

* Other media students might mention could include:

- Discussion forums
- Digital facsimiles
- Blog postings
- Video clips
- Digital texts
- Corpus analysis tools
- Audio clips / podcasts
- Digital images
- Primary or secondary source materials
- RSS feeds
- Electronic text archives
- Websites

- Mobile phone apps
- Wikis
- PowerPoint slides

Links & References

- Creative Writing: Teaching & Technology - was an English Subject Centre event exploring the uses of technologies in the pedagogy of Creative Writing. There are a number of video presentations in the event archive.

Relationship to the Professional Standards Framework

- **Area of Activity 1:** Design and planning of learning activities and / or programmes of study.
- **Core Knowledge 2:** Appropriate methods for teaching and learning in the subject area and at the level of the academic programme
- **Core Knowledge 4:** The use of appropriate learning technologies

More information about the Professional Standards Framework can be obtained from the summary factsheet in the *Subject & Pedagogy* collection in HumBox.

http://humbox.ac.uk/2731/

Resources in the Online teaching Collection

- Online teaching: introduction to the collection
- What are VLE's good for?: resource overview
    - What is a VLE and why use it?: group activity
    - What is a VLE and why use it?: individual activity
- The design of online activities in English Studies: resource overview
    - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: group activity
    - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: individual activity
- Designing learning with new media: resource overview
    - **Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: group activity (*you are here)**

- o   Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: individual activity
- o   Designing an online activity in English Studies: group activity
- o   Designing an online activity in English Studies: individual activity
- Teaching with digital archives: resource overview
  - o   Teaching with digital archives: group activity
  - o   Teaching with digital archives: individual activity
- Online discussion in English Studies: resource overview
  - o   Should online discussion be assessed?: group activity
  - o   Should online discussion be assessed?: individual activity
- Workshopping online: resource overview
  - o   Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: group activity
  - o   Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: individual activity