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Best Practices to Promote Learning through Web Conferencing:
Resources Tools and Teaching Methods
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Web Conferencing Defined
• Real-Time Communications
• Connected to the Internet
• Viewing the Same Screen Shots
• Controls can be Passed to Attendees

Web Conferencing Compared to:
• Lecture Capturing
• Video Conferencing

Possible Limitations of Web Conferencing
• Arranging a common meeting time
• Arranging equipment and tech support
• Prep time for synchronous meeting
• Planning for number of participants in a session
Potential Benefits of Web Conferencing

- Provides tools to support communications between teacher and student, student to student
- Supports problem solving capabilities
- Offers flexibility of being “anywhere” to access the meeting

Web Conferencing Can Help to Establish Presence in Online Courses

Summary Comparison of Web Conferencing Tools


Experiences Teaching Online Courses with WebEx

WebEx combines desktop sharing through a web browser with phone conferencing and video, so everyone sees the same thing while you talk.

- Very user friendly.
- Using this service, participants can view up to seven webcam feeds at a time.
- Cost approximately $500-$600 per license per year.
- Prep for Slight Delay between Audio and Visuals

Why this Web Conferencing service was selected

- Low Learning Curve
- For Faculty
- For Students
- Training support was provided
- Affordable service fee including storage of recorded sessions

Experiences Teaching with WebEx –
Student to Student – (Share Work, Questions and Help Each Other)

Experiences Teaching with WebEx –
Student to Student – (Ice Breaker)
Experiences Teaching with WebEx – Lecturing

Critical Responses
Informed Responses
- Engage in initial responses of text read
- CRITICAL - write examples – must have support for initial posts and engaging in discussion with others
- Analyze writing posted for writing
- Identify own assumptions when reading
- Identify strengths of own & compare with classmates point
- Analyze the content of the words
- Analyze the tone, context, and style used by author
- Analyze the connection, importance, and use by audience
- Ask others ideas
- Use the "A Raising Thinker's Guide to Critical Thinking" by Elder and Paul throughout the course.

Experiences Teaching with WebEx – Class Guest Speaker

Experiences Teaching with WebEx –
Class Guest Speaker

Experiences Teaching with WebEx –
One on One Support for Students (Advising)

Experiences Teaching with WebEx –
One on One Support for Students (Conferencing)
Free Web Conferencing Resources
• Wiz IQ
• Skype
• Big Blue Button
• Web Huddle

Recommended Web Conferencing Resources
• Web EX
  • Industry Leader, Consistently Ranked in Top 10 Web Conferencing Resources
• Wiz IQ
  • Free, Training Resource
• Any Meeting
  • Free, True Web Conference, Ad Supported

Experiences Teaching Online Courses with Wiz IQ

More information is available at http://www.wiziq.com/premium/plans.aspx

• The Academic Free Plan is a free service available to individual teachers.
• Participant/students need also to sign up and get account before they can participate in any live online classes.
• Teachers are able to store 10GB amount of recorded public sessions (private sessions do have set limits).
• For a monthly fee more services can be added.
• WizIQ now provides integration point with Moodle.
• Advanced features are available with paid subscriptions to WizIQ.
Experiences Teaching Online Courses with Any Meeting

More Information is available at http://www.anymeeting.com/

- Any Meeting, formerly known as Freebinar, has scaled up to offer web conferences for up to 200 participants.
- 6-Way Video Conferencing is Available
- The service includes screen sharing, application sharing and text conferences on the side.
- The services available in Any Meeting are similar to what is available in WebEx.
- This is a totally free Web conferencing service but it is advertiser supported.
Best Practices for Hosting a Web Conference

Summary of Handout
• Prepare content ahead of time
• Plan a practice session
• Have an assistant on hand
• Before the first meeting tips to follow
• During the session tips to follow

Thank you for attending

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1. Prepare content ahead of time
   • Prepare content ahead of time including uploading all content items beforehand and launch them.
   • Plan for more than just showing presentation slides. Plan for interactions – use polls, plan for “sharing of screens”.
   • If presentations are used – allow them to “guide” the information – avoid reading the slides to participants.
   • Plan to keep slide transitions and animations at a minimum in Web conference sessions.

2. Plan a practice session
   • Plan a practice session using the Web conferencing system tools and run through the prepared content. This will be a great help to ensure the presenter/educator has enough information planned, including opportunities for interaction and feedback.
   • Offer a separate practice session with learners. Any tech issues could be addressed before the session actually begins.

3. Have an assistant on hand
   • If possible, have an assistant on hand to deal with any tech issues students might have and/or to help facilitate the session (allows presenter to focus on the delivery of information).
   • Having an assistant on hand is especially important during the first couple of Web conference sessions or at least until the facilitator becomes familiar with the tools available.

4. Before the first meeting -- tips to follow
   • Plan for accessibility needs. Prior to the first session, ask the participants if they have assistive needs so that a plan can be in place to accommodate those needs. Even if requests are not received, have an alternative plan ready.
   • Record the session, so participants who were unable to participate in the live session can view it later.
   • Be sure to let the participants know the session will be recorded and they too can access the recording and review it as needed.
   • Prepare the participants and explain the most important student interaction features such as Hand raising, Feedback and Text Chat at the beginning of the session.
   • Plan to share a whiteboard or slide at the beginning of the session that contains a phone number for technical support that may be available to attendees, if possible.
   • Have a plan for dealing with problems and options students might have in case of problems that prevent them from participating in the live session. If possible, provide phone number to call if they are having technical difficulties.
   • Consider asking participants to mute their microphones, if needed.
   • Provide audio help or guidelines to troubleshoot audio problems (i.e., test audio) before the session begins.
   • The host or presenter of the session should plan to log in 15-20 minutes early.
   • Greet attendees/students as they join the session. This may include greeting them, pass the mic to them, and do a simple communications check.

5. During the session -- tips to follow
   • Plan to engage students by making certain that student feedback or student interactions are required every few minutes (through chat, raising hands, questions and answers, participate in polls, or something similar).
   • Be prepared for some delay in audio and visual transitions
   • Be prepared to pass the mic to students or other presenter during the session. Planning to pass the mic over to other attendees encourages student participation and helps to keep participants focused on information shared during the session.
   • Plan for schedule breaks during the session. This is especially true if the session is scheduled to last more than 30-45 minutes. It is a good practice to schedule a 5-10 minute break about mid-way through the session, if possible.
   • Maintain the presentation area and/or the screen shots shared with participants. Be sure to close content items when completed – helps to reduce clutter from the participant’s view.