# *Making Your Online Life Easier Through Tools to Reduce Student Questions & Master Online Group Work*

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By:

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# Agenda

- Who am I
- Tool overview
  - How each have helped me
  - Why you might use
  - Pros and Cons
  - Demo of getting started
    - TechSmith Capture(formally Jing)
    - VoiceThread
    - Screencast-o-matic
    - Other tools brief mention:  Mediaspace and YouTube
- Final thoughts/questions
- FYI:
  - Checkpoints throughout the presentation to address questions
  - It is my pleasure to be here today

# Who am I

- Higher Ed. nearly 20 years
  - 15 community college
  - Now MSU College of Business Assistant Professor and Student Success Data Analytics Coordinator
    - 350+ students a semester, and I need tools that help me be most efficient!
- Online 2005
  - Hybrid, on-line, on-campus, accelerated learning
  - Several courses Quality Matter's (QM) Certified
  - QM course reviewer
- Comfortable integrating technology in the classroom
  - Breeze, Adobe Connect, Shortshot, Adobe Connect II, Mediaspace, Echo, Jing, VoiceThread, Screencast-o-matic, Canvas
- Heart for serving students and making sure:
  - They have what they need
  - The class was worth their time and money= more than an on-line independent study
  - "Comfort of an on-campus class from the convenience of their sofa"
  - They are not alone

# TechSmith Capture (formally Jing)

- Most important tool
  - Saves time
  - Reduces email
  - Receive thank you messages
  - It's like standing next to a student in a lab
  - One email and the question is over

- I use to answer a question
  - Hear me, see my screen
    - They know exactly where to go and what to click

Thank you so much for taking time to make that video! It was very helpful! The page separated into two pages because I did convert it into word, I thought I had to keep my advisors' signature on there.

Thank you for your help,
Alexis

# TechSmith Capture Cont.

- Pro's
  - Sits on your desktop so easy to open
    - I like no hassle
    - Used this a lot instead of logged in and opening Adobe Connect/Mediaspace
  - Great tool for one and done
    - You can reuse your videos, post in announcements
- Con's
  - Limited "free" storage
    - Use a lot, wait and cycle each month
  - I paid $50 (a year) for more storage and never needed for than that
    - Department funds paid for subscription
    - Paperwork each year, PO/Invoice, annual subscription
  - Could exceed the purchasable limit
  - Jing closed, now TechSmith Capture, those videos are gone
    - Usually, a student question is a one-time response

# TechSmith Capture Cont.

- Demo
  - Where to find it
  - How to install it
  - How to use it
  - What it captures
  - How to send video to student
- If you want to inquire, my contact:
  - support@techsmith.zendesk.com
  - Respond within 24 hours
    - Trouble shooting:  Matt is wonderful if you can get him
  - Explain you are interested, ask for cost for storage
    - They will send you an invoice for a PO
    - Activates quickly
    - Email reminder of when expiring

# Questions

- Thoughts on Tech Smith?

- Write down my contact information if something comes to you later

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# VoiceThread

- Great for group work
- Communication skills requested by industry partners
  - Text instead of talk, please have students work together
    - Difficult in online classes
- Greatly reduces student complaints
- Private so only students in the class can see
- A group within the class and create their own private group to post work for teammate comment, proofing, etc.
- Allows for audio and video comments from anyone in the class, or private group
- Great tool for students to offer "live-like" comments on their schedule
- Allows great feedback opportunities from classmates

# VoiceThread Cont.

- Pro's
  - Inexpensive
    - Free or Paid Account
      - Free for students to use
      - Paid for teacher to make private classes
    - 50 users at a time for one year, $99
      - Can be different fifty users-50 in the fall, 50 different students in the spring
      - I broke the 50 between 2 classes each semester, 4 classes a year used this for $99
  - Private to your class
  - Increases student feedback in a safe area
  - Easy to set-up different classes only students in that class can see
  - Reduces complaints:  "I am doing all the work myself and no feedback from this/these teammates."

# VoiceThread Cont.

- Con's
  - It does cost for privacy for you
    - Price varies depending on how many users you want at a time
  - Student free account can only have 5 uploads at a time, and then they are asked to pay
    - To keep it free, I had students delete and empty their trash, so they never had 5 and got a payment message
  - Paperwork:  New invoice and PO each year
  - Students may still choose to use a private Facebook group
  - Still get some complaints, but significantly reduced

# VoiceThread Cont.

- Demo
  - Where to find it
  - How to set-up an account
  - Difference between Free and Paid account
  - How to use it
  - How to leave feedback and upload a presentation
- If you want to inquire, my contact:
  - Sadie Anderson, [pro-support@voicethread.com](mailto:pro-support@voicethread.com)
  - Respond within 24 hours
    - Never needed tech support, only annual invoices
  - Explain you are interested, and Sadie will work with on pricing
  - From Sadie: "The pricing for individual licenses is $99 for 50 users, and $2 per user over that number. If institutions would like departmental or institutional pricing, then that's actually customized, so we would connect them with our sales team."
  - They will send you an invoice for a PO
    - Activates quickly
    - Email reminder when expiring (I had Jing/TechSmith Capture and this due at the same time, Pos done together)

# Questions

- Thoughts on VoiceThread?

- Write down my contact information if something comes to you later

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# Screencast-o-matic

- I have students use for speeches instead of YouTube, privacy

- Free
  - 15 minute recording of you and screen
  - Get a URL to share with teacher, or class

- I've used it when I adjunct somewhere else
  - Don't feel comfortable using technology that one school paid for-for another school or student

- I oftentimes use VoiceThread and Screencast-o-matic in the same class
  - VT for the group work and comments
  - Screencast-o-matic for the perfect final, all in one presentation

# Screencast-o-matic Cont.

- Pro's
  - Privacy verses YouTube
  - Free
  - Shows presenter and screen, just presenter, just screen
  - Nice quality
  - Easy to get sharable link
  - Great for student use when you have a few presentations a semester
- Con's
  - Limited "free" storage
    - A MSU faculty pays for more storage like I did with TechSmith Capture/Jing
  - Could exceed purchasable storage limit like MSU faculty
  - Take a risk like with Jing closed and lose those videos
  - I personally won't use as a faculty if you make a lot of videos
    - Does your college support Mediaspace or another tool?

# Screencast-o-matic Cont.

- Demo
  - Where to find it
  - How to get an account
  - How to use it
    - Unlisted, verses public
  - What it captures
  - How to get a sharable URL
- If you want to inquire, my contact:
  - [support@techsmith.zendesk.com](mailto:support@techsmith.zendesk.com)  (same company as TechSmith Capture)
  - Respond within 24 hours
  - Explain you are interested, ask for cost for storage
    - They will send you an invoice for a PO
    - Activates quickly

# FYI on Other Tools

- Things to consider:
  - Not a fan of YouTube
    - I searched my name and found my niece's speeches
    - As a mom I wouldn't like
  - Not a fan of anything that would cost students money
    - Your piece might cost for added benefits like privacy in VT, their piece-FREE
  - Ask your IT person what tools you already have for free or supported by your state
    - MN, MnSCU supports Adobe Connect, now Mediaspace
    - Canvas has built in video tools within the LMS
  - You might get funding to try something new if willing to provide a "brown bag" on your experience
    - How I first got VoiceThread

# Wrap-Up

- Tools are even more important during increased remote learning, COVID

- Tips for success during these times:
  - Reduce fear during these fluid times by keeping this as much the same as possible
  - Be an OVER communicator/demonstrator
    - Information offers peace
    - Most classes on-line
    - Information overload
    - Show them so they don't feel alone, like you are beside them

# Wrap-Up Cont.

- You can do this!
  - Several Free tools: TechSmith Capture, VoiceThread, Screencast-o-matic
  - Explore, be willing to try something new
  - Share your success and not so fun stories to help people save time
- Students appreciate it!
- Like with students: You too are not alone
  - Melissa.Diegnau@mnsu.edu
  - 507-389-1622
- Please contact me if you have questions or want to hear more about how I use tools.

# Thank you for your time!

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