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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



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 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 again, 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
 - "Comfort of an on-campus class from the convenience of their sofa"
 - They are not alone



Tool Overview

- TechSmith Capture (formally Jing)
- VoiceThread
- Screencast-o-matic
- Other tools
 - Mediaspace
 - YouTube



TechSmith Capture (formally Jing)

- Most important tool
 - Saves time
 - Reduces email
 - Receive thank you messages
- I use to answer a question
 - Hear me, see the screen
 - They know exactly where to go
 - It's like standing next to a student in a lab
 - One email and the question is over



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
 - You can reuse your videos
- 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 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

- If I am here please pause the video and ask any questions on this piece of technology
- If I am not:
 - Jot notes for the question session at the end
 - Or email or call me to discuss your specific questions

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VoiceThread

- Great for group work
 - 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 difference 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 time
 - Students can only have 5 uploads at a time and then they are asked to pay
 - 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 private Facebook group
 - Still get some complaints



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
 - 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)



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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, 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.

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 - How to use it
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 - How to get a sharable URL
- If you want to inquire, my contact:
 - support@techsmith.zendesk.com (same company as TechSmith Capture)
 - Respond within 24 hours
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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, their piece-FREE
 - Ask your IT person what tools you already have for free or supported by your state
 - MN, MnSCU supports Adobe Connect, no 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
- 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



Final Thoughts

- I hope you realize you can do this!
- 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!