Promoting Student Engagement through a Group Podcast Assignment

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Learning/Engagement

- 2nd year medical school course
- 198 students
- Lectures
- Assignments (writing)
- Study carrels
- MCQ Exams/USMLE
Learning/Engagement

What is engagement?

Students who are engaged exhibit three characteristics:

- They are attracted to their work
- They persist in their work despite challenges and obstacles
- They take visible delight in accomplishing their work

(Phillip Schlechty, 1994)
Podcast Assignment

• To learn how to use a popular social media method to create and convey medical/scientific information

• To pick a partner and a topic and create a short podcast

• Using Discussions in Canvas LMS
• Recording – Uploading – Subscribing
• Optional assignment
• Extra point
• 46 podcasts were created by teams of 2 students
Podcast Assignment

• Discussions in Canvas LMS

RSS feed for subscribing podcasts
For uploading podcasts
Podcast Assignment

• Recording

Option #1
Smartphone

Option #2
Audio software: Audacity

Option #3
Canvas
Podcast Assignment

- Uploading
Podcast Assignment

- Subscribing

**RSS Feed**

![RSS Feed Subscription](image.png)
Survey Results

• 84 students responded
  – 31 respondents did NOT do the assignment
  – 53 respondents DID do the assignment

• Answers from students who did NOT do the assignments

[Bar chart showing reasons for not participating in assignment: Too busy (highest), Not enough points, I would have done if it was not posted for peers to listen to, Technically too difficult, Could not find a partner]
Survey Results

- Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment

I chose to do the podcast because: (enter all that apply)

- Sounded like a fun/interest...
- I really needed the... extra point
- Classmate urged me to ...
Survey Results

- Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment
Survey Results

• Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment

![](chart.png)

**Did you have any technical difficulty in working on the podcast assignment?**

- **No**
- **Yes (please describe)**
Survey Results

- Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment

![Preference to do alone or with partner?](image)
Survey Results

• Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment

![Survey Chart]

**Should this be a required assignment?**

- Yes
- No, keep as optional
- No, not a useful assignment

• Optional – provoking, enjoyable, fun
Survey Results

• Answers from students who **DID** do the assignment

Do you think podcast was a good tool for this assignment?

- **Yes**
- **No**

- Fun, easy, creative way
- Different style of learning
- Enhanced form of group work
Student Comments

• The podcast assignment was “fun and different.”

• Podcasting “allowed students to be creative and more engaging than we would be in just writing an assignment or completing a document.”

• It was optional. I find it more enjoyable and provoking. I made time to do it because I wanted to, not because I was forced to.”
Conclusions

Aspects of the podcast assignment to promote student engagement:

• Alternative method
• New media
• Creation
• Team work
• Optional assignment
• Technology – smartphones, LMS