Promoting Student Engagement through a Group Podcast Assignment

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Student 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)
Medical School Course

- 2nd year medical school course
- 198 students
- Lectures
- Assignments (writing)
- MCQ Exams/USMLE
Podcast Assignment

• To let students learn how to use a popular social media method to create and convey medical/scientific information
• To promote student engagement
Podcast Assignment (Cont’d)

• To pick a partner and a topic and create a short podcast
• Optional assignment
• Extra point
• 46 podcasts were created by teams of 2 students
Podcast Assignment (Cont’d)

• Discussions in Canvas LMS

The Podcast Optional Assignment is a new assignment we are testing this year that can provide you with a few extra “bonus” points should you choose to participate. Descriptions and instructions have been provided in a separate document.

Please use this discussion board to post your podcasts.

RSS feed for subscribing podcasts
For uploading podcasts
Podcast Assignment (Cont’d)

• Recording

Option #1
Smartphone

Option #2
Audio software: Audacity

Option #3
Canvas
Podcast Assignment (Cont’d)

• Uploading
Podcast Assignment (Cont’d)

- Subscribing

RSS Feed
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](chart.png)
Survey Results (Cont’d)

• 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 ...

• Interesting, fun
Survey Results (Cont’d)

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

![Chart showing recording methods]

- **Smartphone**: 70%
- **Laptop with Audacity**: 20%
- **Record Media in Canvas**: 10%
- **Other (please specify)**: 0%

• Technology
Survey Results (Cont’d)

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

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

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

• Technology
Survey Results (Cont’d)

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

![Preference to do alone or with partner?](chart)

- **With partner**: 90%
- **Alone**: 10%
- **No preference**: 0%

• Team work
Survey Results (Cont’d)

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

  ![](chart.png)

  *Should this be a required assignment?*

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

• Optional assignment – provoking, enjoyable, fun
Survey Results (Cont’d)

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

![](image)

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 impact student engagement:

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