

Technology for the Classroom: Creating and Using Podcasts

Ray Pastore JR
Penn State University Doctoral Student
USA
info@raypastore.com

Abstract: This discussion will focus on different designs and methods that are being used to implement podcasting into the classroom environment. Podcasting technology is one of the latest trends being explored by educators and technologists. This has motivated educators to design ways in which they can successfully implement podcasts into their classrooms. This technology has become popular due to the increase in use of the mp3 player, ease of development, and low cost of equipment. Students are embracing this technology and this discussion will look at some of the ways to successfully use podcasts in the classroom.

Creating and Using Podcasts in the Classroom

In the last year, podcasting has become one of the latest technological trends to be used by educators and students (Descy, 2005). Many educators are motivated to learn how to use this technology in order to implement it into their classroom. This has created a need for different designs and methods to emerge so that educators have an approach to this implementation (Campbell, 2005).

Podcasts are simply digital-voice sound files that are available for download onto a computer or mp3 player (Lucking, Purcell, & Christmann, 2006). The mp3 player has become as popular as the cell phone. In fact, most cell phones, PDAs, and even watches and cameras can play mp3 sound files. In addition, the cost of mp3 players such as the popular iPod from Apple, have decreased, making this technology affordable. This technology is also becoming easier to use. Many software and hardware companies are developing new devices and software to make creating and receiving your podcasts even more user friendly.

Creating podcasts in the classroom is becoming an increasingly easy task. As long as you have a microphone, computer (Mac or PC), and speakers you can create and listen to podcasts. This means that you do not need expensive software or have a lot of computer experience to record and publish your own podcasts. To create a podcast, users can go to different websites that allow them to record, publish, and even send their podcasts for free by email.

I am developing a classroom assignment for undergraduate students on podcasting. For this assignment, each of my students is going to create a podcast, publish it on their blog, and put it on iTunes for use in an mp3 player. To begin this assignment, I have my students create a blog using Google's Blogger from www.blogger.com. The site is free and allows each of my students to set up an account and create a blog in a matter of minutes. After they have created their blog, I have them create their podcast using one of the free sites available. One such site that I am going to use is [podomatic.com](http://www.podomatic.com) (www.podomatic.com). This site lets you record your podcast right onto their server. This site also helps you test your microphone and set it up. In addition to podcasting, you can record video to create a videocast. Once the podcast is recorded it can be sent through email, to iTunes, MySpace, Blogger, or Typepad accounts. For this assignment, my students will create their podcasts and publish them onto their blog. After my students have published their podcasts to their blogs, they will comment on each others podcasts and reflect on the experience. This assignment will teach my students about podcasting and shows them how easy they are to develop and publish.

Using podcasts in the classroom has never been easier. With the technology that is available today and the ease of its use, educators should easily be able to implement and use these tools as part of their curriculum. Podcasting can be fun and help to generate student motivation to learn new technologies. Podcasting is being used by our students' everyday so we must embrace it and take advantage of their interests so that we can create an exciting classroom experience.

Resources

Descy, D. E. (2005) All Aboard the Internet: Podcasting: Online Media Delivery ... With a Twist. TechTrends, 49(5). pg. 4.

Lucking, R. A., Purcell, S., Christmann, E., R. (2006) Can you podcast?. Science Scope, 30(1). pg 16.

Campbell, G. (2005) There's Something in the AIR: PODCASTING IN EDUCATION. Educause Review, 40(6). pg. 32.