Creating Digital Learning Objects Using iPads to Enhance Traditional Courses

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Introduction

- Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources prides itself on use of technology
  - Evernote
  - Penultimate
  - Skitch
  - Echo 360
  - Dropbox
  - FRED
  - Feeder
  - Reflector
  - Reflector
  - Divvy
  - Educreations
Penultimate in the Classroom

- In Fall 2012, faculty developed digital learning objects with the Penultimate App during a traditional classroom lecture.
- Students (n=105) from multiple sections of a traditional agribusiness course were surveyed to determine the effectiveness of digital learning objects on student outcomes.
Student Responses

Would You Use the Professors Notes Outside of Class

- **Strongly Agree**: 77
- **Agree**: 25
- **Neutral**: 2
- **Disagree**: 0
- **Strongly Disagree**: 0
Student Responses

Using Real Time Problems and Data in class made the material more interesting

- Strongly Agree: 30
- Agree: 58
- Neutral: 16
- Disagree: 0
- Strongly Disagree: 0
The iPad is Great for Learning Graphs

- Strongly Agree: 27
- Agree: 62
- Neutral: 14
- Disagree: 1
- Strongly Disagree: 0
The iPad Lectures Were Easy to Follow

- Strongly Agree: 21
- Agree: 50
- Neutral: 24
- Disagree: 3
- Strongly Disagree: 3
Student Responses

The iPad was Distracting in Class

- Strongly Agree: 3
- Agree: 11
- Neutral: 18
- Disagree: 62
- Strongly Disagree: 10
Student Responses

Do You Prefer the iPad Notes to PowerPoint Notes

- Strongly Agree: 19
- Agree: 33
- Neutral: 38
- Disagree: 10
- Strongly Disagree: 4
Student Responses

The iPad Notes Complimented the PowerPoint Notes

- Strongly Agree: 14
- Agree: 53
- Neutral: 30
- Disagree: 4
- Strongly Disagree: 3
Faculty Thoughts

- Ease of Use
  - Relatively simple to learn to use the software
  - Notes are automatically saved and can be uploaded to Evernote

- *Easy to use as long as classroom technology is working (projector, computer, iPad is charged)*
Faculty Thoughts

• Time Requirement
  • Takes a little extra time to prepare lectures and decide where to incorporate the iPad
  • Saves time when lecture is repeated because lecture prep is done
  • Very little time required to save images as a pdf and upload them to Blackboard

• Need to get premium account on Evernote if you plan to use it a lot ($45/yr for 1GB/month)
Faculty Thoughts

• Technical Issues
  • Getting in a hurry and handwriting suffers
  • Hand hitting buttons on Penultimate
  • Writing issues if using a stylus or when screen is dirty
Screen Shot

Drawing and dimensioning
Final Thoughts

• This technology is a great tool

• It should not be viewed as a burden to the professor

• Excellent resource for online students

Thank you 🌟