

Strategy: Smartphones

Smartphones can be valuable learning tools for students and valuable productivity tools for instructors.

Origin

Orlando, J. (2010). Faculty focus: Using polling and smartphones to keep students engaged. Retrieved from <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-teaching-strategies/using-polling-and-smartphones-to-keep-students-engaged/?c=FF&t=F101004a>.

Pacansky-Brock, M. (2011). Tracing the possibilities of mobile learning in college. [VoiceThread]. Retrieved from <http://voicethread.com/#q.b1661202.i8768573>. (2011, January 19).

Young, J. (2011). 6 top smartphone apps to improve teaching, research, and life. Retrieved from <http://chronicle.com/article/6-Top-Smartphone-Apps-to/125764/>.

Application

Smartphones as learning tools:

- Poll Everywhere (<http://www.polleverywhere.com>)
Unlimited polls with up to 30 respondents on the free plan. SMS text option.
- Flisti (<http://flisti.com>)
Create polls to use on the web and/or on your blog or website.
- TextTheMob (<http://textthemob.com>)
Create up to 3 polls for up to 50 respondents in the free option.
- Wiggio (<http://wiggio.com>)
Communicate and work in groups using this free online resource to boost collaboration.
- Qik (<http://qik.com>)
Share and discuss videos on mobile devices.
- LocaModa (<http://wiffiti.locamoda.com/>)
Create screens to gather real-time messages via text or web.
- Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com>)
Share photos via mobile or web.

Smartphones as productivity tools:

- Taking attendance:
The Attendance App can be used to upload class rosters and take daily attendance and download and email attendance reports. Optional features: student photos, text messaging, taking notes.

- Data collection:
Wildlife Obs App can be used to report wildlife observations to researchers using GPS and photos.
- Keeping a personal library/accessing documents:
Dropbox App can be used to store documents on smartphones for easy access. GoodReader, Papers, and Evernote can be used to highlight and take notes on PDF documents.
- Recording notes:
JotNot Pro App turns pictures of text into PDFs (virtual scanner) to save for review later.
- Accessing online textbooks:
Many publishers provide free Apps to support online texts.
- Planning lectures:
Mind mapping apps like Thinking Space (Android), MindBlowing (iPhone), Popplet (iPad), and MindJet can help arrange thoughts before a lecture.
- Accessing scholarly articles:
Use the Mendeley App to manage references and share research with others online.

Reflection

- How does this compare to what you are already doing?
- Why should (or shouldn't) smartphones be used in higher education?
- What strategies to identify technology to assist you and your students can/do you use?
- How can you expand options for students to use Smartphones in your courses?