DSU CTL Grant

SoftChalk™
Create. Connect. Inspire!

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January 26, 2015
Public and Allied Health Science
Presentation Order

- Demonstration of a Soft Chalk module
- Comparing Soft Chalk to current online/flipped classroom activities
- Brief overview of how to use Soft Chalk
- Measurement of effectiveness
- Student feedback
- Logistics
- Pros/Cons
- Questions
Measurement of Effectiveness

- Having students complete activities and assessments, outside of this learning platform, to measure their mastery of course objectives
  - Word Document Labs for Week 1
  - Result: Similar grades. Higher with Interactive Lab because they could complete as many times as desired.
- Having the students take a comprehensive exam at the end of the semester to determine the course content learned, as compared to the objectives of the course
  - First lab test scheduled week of February 28th
  - Comprehensive final scheduled during finals week
Measurement of Effectiveness

- Comparing course grades of the online courses using SoftChalk with the course grades reported from the analogous traditional classroom course
  - Will compare all lab test grades to previous semesters’ traditional classroom grades
- Having the students complete a learning satisfaction survey at the middle and end of the course
  - Formal survey will be given in the middle and end of the course
  - An informal questionnaire was sent after week 2
    - Comparing Word Document Lab and Interactive SoftChalk Lab
Student Feedback: Which lab activity did you enjoy the most and why?

I liked Soft Chalk because...

- “Showed clear vivid pictures of everything and I liked how you could take a mini quiz after every slide.”
- “Allowed you to review the material and then also get tested on it in different ways. I was able to study the material in different ways so I was able to stay engaged.
- “Was entertaining while also helping me memorize the bones and their names. I really enjoyed the crossword puzzle!
- “Gave you so many different ways to learn the material.”
- “I like reading about things, being tested, and getting automatic feedback of my responses.”
Student Feedback: Which lab helped you learned the material better?

- 9/10 Indicated SoftChalk
Student Feedback: Which lab would you recommend to help students learn the material?

- Recommendations
  - 8/10 recommended Soft Chalk
  - 1/10 recommended both
  - 1/20 recommended Word Document

- “The Soft Chalk Interactive Lab because it gives you a mini quiz after every slide, that helps with memorization of the information that you just learned.”

- “The interactive lab helped me to learn the material much better than the module 2 lab because it had me more involved. I would recommend the interactive lab to other students to help.”

- “They were both fine, but I liked soft chalk interactive better. I felt like I practiced better on there and the crossword puzzle helped me remember the definitions of each of the words.”
Student Feedback: Which lab would you recommend to help students learn the material?

- “I would do both. I think the interactive labs are good for retention of knowledge, but we should be accustomed to writing it as well.”
- “Word based worksheets are better to learn this type of information because after reading, you can quiz yourself on the material.”
Soft Chalk Logistics

- **Costs**
  - 1-9 unique faculty/staff ($495 each);
  - 10-24 ($450 ea.); 25-49 ($350 ea.); 5
  - 0-99 ($250 ea.); 100 ($195 ea.);
  - Site License ($19,500 based on 3,287 student FTE)

- **Blackboard**
  - Typically, no extra cost
  - Blackboard admin would have to configure
  - DSU Blackboard doesn’t always like to add a Course Tool that only one department will use
Pros/Cons

- **Pros**
  - Allows for “push/pull” of information in an online setting
  - Allows for interaction
  - Provides immediate feedback
  - Has many different ways to develop modules
  - Can find modules made by other instructors

- **Cons**
  - Has an associated annual cost
  - Has a decent learning curve
  - Takes time to develop a module
  - Needs updated Java and only works on certain browsers
Questions?