Education Solutions Packs

Multimedia Collaboration and Discussions Online
Asynchronous discussions using VoiceThread

Educational challenge: Multimedia collaboration and discussions

Discussion is a learning and teaching strategy central to disciplines across UNSW. When teaching online or in blended mode, it can be difficult to replicate the atmosphere and impact of a classroom discussion. Students may be inhibited by the video call style while teachers cannot see their students' reactions and engagement like they can face-to-face. Considering whether the learning goals of discussion activities can be replicated asynchronously can create opportunities for more considered discussion and wider participation in the online learning context.

Solution: Asynchronous discussion in VoiceThread

VoiceThread can be used to set up an online discussion that is asynchronous and allows students to participate through audio and video uploads. By setting a clear discussion topic and modelling the length and structure of discussion comments, teachers can facilitate rich discussions. VoiceThread also has the added benefit of preserving these discussions for review later.

Students can…
- Upload video and audio discussion responses as well as images
- Respond to each other in a comment thread to simulate a conversation / peer feedback

Instructors can…
- Engage in discussion with students and provide formative discussion feedback
- Quickly engage with students and check their understanding

FAQ

What supports for learning does VoiceThread enable?
- Asynchronous discussions allow students to have take up time before speaking
- Students can practice presentation skills in the online environment
- Assists in establishing an online learning community

Are any other learning activities possible?
- Music performance, drama and audio-visual design activities are also possible

What administrative benefits are there?
- No additional software or hardware required
- Embedded in Moodle

You can also conduct asynchronous oral exams using VoiceThread, for more information, please see the Asynchronous oral assessment solution pack.

Support

The instructor should check in on submissions regularly and inform students how to get in touch (e.g. email, Teams) if they have issues.

If a students are unable to record, they can write a text comment or upload images and documents.

For further support, please contact EDS through the Education Solutions Consultation form.

Templates/Guides
1. Setup guide
2. Example waiting Faculty Approval

Technical Considerations

- Make sure to select course view for discussion.
- Users must have a working, forward-facing camera and internal microphone in their device/computer.
- VoiceThread is supported fully by the latest versions of Firefox and Chrome.