Give Students a Voice

Hearing Shakespeare for the first time. The intonations of a foreign language. When students listen, they learn, that’s the power of Wimba Voice. Adding voice to an otherwise text-only course site makes the learning process more interesting and stimulating, thus increasing the rate of learning and knowledge retention.

Appeal to Different Learning Styles
Not every student learns the same way. Not every topic lends itself to a particular teaching method. While standard teaching and learning technologies enable instructors and students to communicate primarily through visual images and text, multimodal learning promotes the use of new media and learning methods to achieve different objectives. Wimba Voice helps instructors speak to students with varied learning styles or visual and print disabilities.

Energize Online Discussions
Retention is highest when students are able to practice new concepts, analyze alternative viewpoints, and explain their own conclusions. Participation in online discussion forums provides opportunities for active learning. By introducing a vocal element to online discussions using Wimba Voice, students are required to become actively engaged with the course content, and through conversation with their peers, negotiate the meanings of the content.

Empower Teachers
Teachers engaged in flexible learning often feel constrained by restrictions imposed on online teaching and learning by the text-based nature of most online communication. Written text, even with visual support, limits the range, type of learning activity and communication that can be delivered online. Wimba Voice offers teachers a broader spectrum of methods for teaching online.

Enable Language Learning
Language instructors have traditionally used audio in the classroom. Audio clips of foreign language speakers provide students with opportunities to learn vocabulary and sharpen their listening and comprehension skills. Wimba Voice enhances language instruction in the online learning environment by allowing instructors to easily post customized audio clips and for students to post practice recordings.

Student reaction was excellent. Wimba Voice has been extremely valuable for our faculty and students for the simple reason that it enhances teaching and learning.

- Anne Pallant, EAP Lecturer and Course Director
Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Reading
Collaborative Features

* Podcaster
* Voice Presentation
* Voice Authoring
* Voice Discussion Board
* Voice Email

Collaborative Uses

* Add instructor’s voice to enhance presence
* Build engaging and reusable course content
* Create and distribute podcasts
* Explain complex material
* Author narrated web tours
* Add spoken announcements to course sites
* Engage in audio-based threaded discussions
* Send voice comments on assignments
* Teach pronunciation, rhythm, stress, and emphasis

“We expected that our foreign language programs would be the biggest users of Wimba for practice, dictée, pronunciation, etc. Although adopted for this purpose, what we discovered is that both our students and faculty report it heightens socialization and accelerates the establishment of a cohesive community of learners.

- Phil O’Hara, Dalhousie University

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