



Using Methods to Shape the Way We Teach

Webinar #5 in a Series

7 September 2011



Brief Review of Webinars 1 and 2

- Why study Methods?
- Affect in language learning:
Desuggestopedia and Community
Language Learning
- Cognition in language learning:
Silent Way and Task-Based Language
Teaching



Webinars 3 and 4

- Content in language learning:
Content and Language in Learning
and Content-Based Instruction
- The political dimension of language
learning: Participatory Approach and
Communicative Language Teaching



Overview of Webinar #5

- Emerging uses of technology in language teaching
- Wrap-up of the Webinar Series
- Introduction to the Vidcast series and continuation on Ning

The roots of technology in language learning



- Language labs
- Tape recorders and CD players
- Uses of movies
- Computer assisted language learning (CALL)
- Blackboards and chalk



Overview of the “new” technologies

- Blogs
- Social Networking Sites
- YouTube
- Wiki
- Blackboard / Moodle
- Electronic Text Corpus
- Digital Portfolio
- Mobile Phones



Issues with Technology

- Relying on technology?
- Bandwidth and internet speed
- Should technology replace other tools?
- When is technology not appropriate?
- “Just because you can use something doesn’t mean you should.”



Does technology work for you?

- Consider the context where you teach.
- Let us know your initial reactions to using technology.
- Then we will examine some of the new forms in use in language classrooms.
- Poll #1



Blogs

- Existing blogs written on almost any topic imaginable: food, travel, the arts, family life, books, poetry – even on the process of language learning!
- Students writing their own blogs as a classroom activity
- Self expression is motivating.



Social Networking Sites

- Facebook, My Space, Que Pasa etc.
- Reading and writing
- Informal register, special vocabulary
- Students are often engaged with this anyway
– so building learning activities around something they normally do is a solid idea.
- Not all countries allow these sites.



YouTube

- Wide range of topics – searchable
- Many examples of language use. We will see some examples of this during the Vidcast portion of our series.
- Students can create their own short movies as a small-group task or project.



Wikis

- Shared writing and editing
- Wikipedia is a good example
- Some sites (Blackboard and Moodle) have this as a function.



Blackboard/Moodle

- Both have a wiki function within
- Purchased programs that can augment classroom delivery
- A place to store readings and assignments
- A place to discuss (in writing) to support classroom instruction
- Also used as a stand-alone teaching tool



Electronic Text Corpus

- Others have done the research
- Searchable
- Many different examples can be found, both idiomatic (e.g. “get a grip”) or more formal structures represented.



Digital Portfolios

- Collections of written and other work in digital format.
- Can be saved on a CD or a pin-drive
- Portable and easily edited
- “The dog can’t eat it.”



Mobile Phones

- Photos
- Video clips
- Text messaging
- Images or words uploaded and used as text or basis for other class activities



Poll #2

- Given your teaching context. . .
- Which of these technologies can you imagine using?
- In the chat area tell us why you could use one of the technologies.
- Also tell us a technology that you absolutely could not or would not use – and why.



Other Considerations

- Does technology add something positive or motivating to the classroom?
- Does technology become a distraction?
- Sometimes it doesn't work, even with careful planning. It is sometimes out of your control (internet speed etc.) Then what?



Reflections

- Motivation
- Fostering communication
- Making possible connections across countries and continents (such as this webinar series)
- Technology is part of our world. How and when can and should we use it?



A look back at the Webinar Series

- Why Methods?
- Lenses: Affect, Cognition, Uses of Content, Political dimensions and Technology
- Please consider thinking about these lenses as you move forward in your own development as teaching professionals.



Thank you!!

- Please continue to visit the Ning Discussion
- Vidcasts will begin on 21 September and will be posted online every 2 weeks.
- These will be video clips of teachers trying innovative methods and techniques in their classrooms.
- There will be an invitation to reflect on what you see and discuss all of this on Ning.