The AFFECT project aims to transfer student and staff experiences of assessment and feedback through the use of technology. Environmental Planning has participated in the project since 2012.

Rationale
VoiceThread is a web-based application that allows you to see media images, videos, documents and presentations as dialogues of discussion between tutors, students and on a specific subject. Videos, images and text are captured as effective forms of communication, especially for subjects such as planning that are more visual and lend themselves to this type of graphic media. Students can access the information on their computer, tablet or mobile phone and make voice comments, type responses or even make a video comment over the images.

Implementation
All students can see all the comments that other students and the tutor made. For this module we make four 15 minute videos on a range of planning subjects and upload specific questions that students need to answer.

The tutor can provide feedback on an individual student response as a group of comments. User Experiences
A survey of the participating students stated that most found the VoiceThread approach very useful. They felt that it is not only a learning tool that is effective but it also helps the students to build confidence in and out of the systems. Most other students found the tutorial forms helpful and they in many words noticed how easy it was for many students to participate for the first time and communicate.

In general students appreciated the clarity, ease of access and shift of the role in a way of learning and giving feedback.

Acrobat Pro
Acrobat Pro allows you to annotate PDF documents by creating comments, speech marks and highlights. This allows the user to anchor comments and feedback on assignments uploaded on Q2L.

Implementation
Annotate over drawings is a standard way of giving feedback for design based modules. Students can access this feedback through their tablets, computers or on their phones.

Tip: Add user’s own drawings and feedback comments to a PDF document.

Jing
Jing is a recording tool that allows you to capture your screen or a video of your computer while you work.

Rationale
• Used range of students and planning practice skills must be developed in the planning programme
• Our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, with diverse skills, levels of confidence etc.
• Our challenge is to bring the diverse group to the same level of visual communication ability as quickly as possible.
• These skills need to be closely aligned to the design work and feedback needs in most modules in our programme.

Finding Approach
Positives
• We use ‘live’ teaching, weekly formation feedback
• Workshops for group feedback (2013 students)
• Variable form for summative feedback

Negatives
• Pressure of time in workshops
• Absence from workshops leaves students at a disadvantage for the entire semester

Evaluation Sheet
Create your own evaluation sheet, keeping to the following patterns for the evaluation:

User Experiences
Positives
• Easy to use
• Basic version has enough tools and not too many
• PDF report, windowed ta. interaction to complete feedback
• Good compatibility can copy and paste into other programs
• Smart voices are also very easy to prepare
• Venue for feedback is accessible

Negatives
• It would be good to be able to prepare larger videos
• Only have one text based graphic worksheet possibility of more tailored feedback
• For large groups and long reports could be a slightly format feedback possibly

Implications
• It was hard to make sure that all the students watched the video feedback
• It was hard to make sure that the feedback comments were received by all the students

Reflection
I visited the Jing programme as one of varied learning modes to encourage greater student involvement. Jing software was very intuitive that we could be in touch with people at any time.

AFFECT activities
1. Create an image of the module Feedback: how required the action plan to be developed and feedback to be given.
2. Encourage the use of digital skills within module feedback.
3. Provide students with feedback

Tutor Experiences
It is a very time consuming for this module there were 80+ students for each stage

Disabling as it is a mixture of drawing online using the software

Student used a variety of programmes to create their project e.g., pdf, adobe, ai etc

There is better software available to do this but such as adobe and trig

Next Steps
• Engage with the student module feedback
• Use more feedback tools for more formative feedback
• Use the student at formative learning phases

Level 3
• EV5002 Design Principles in the Built Environment
• EV5022 Spaces, Places, Plans

Level 2
• EV5002 Comparative Planning Studies
• EV5002 Economic Studies

Level 1
• EV3002 Spatial and Urban Design
• EV5002 Economy & Space

Follow the link to view the presentation slides

http://go.qub.ac.uk/e-AFFECT

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