Expanding and Enriching the Law School Classroom Through Podcasting

Presentation to the
Technology In and Beyond The Classroom
Conference

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What Are Podcasts/Podcasting?

- Podcasts: Short Recordings Available for Review on Listener's Own Time
- Can Be Audio or Video
- Podcasting: Recording and Making Podcasts Available to Students

How Have I Used Podcasts?

- Topical Summaries of Property Concepts
- Expanded Talks on 1st Year Concerns
- Entire Class Recordings
- Summary Analysis of Quizzes

How Can Podcasting Help Educate Law Students?

- The Problem of Time Constraints
- The Problem of The "Echo" Effect

How Can Podcasting Help Educate Law Students?

- Cognitivist Learning Theory
  - Sensory→ Short-Term→ Long-Term Memory
- Impediment #1: Timing/Lack of Focus
- Impediment #2: Cognitive Load
- Impediment #3: Lack of Organizing Schema (esp. 1st Year Students)

How Can Podcasting Help Educate Law Students?

- Podcasting: Removes Time Pressure via Repetitive Listening
- Podcasting: Allows Cognitive Load Management
- Podcasting: Slows Down + Allows Schema Development

How Can Podcasting Help Educate Law Students?

- Professorial Benefits

1: Content Control (↓ "Echo" Effect)

2: Multiple Opportunities to Reach and Teach

3: Expand Learning Space Beyond Classroom

Does Podcasting Work?

- Survey Results (during semester) (N>460)
  - **82%** used podcasts
  - **67%** reviewed each podcast 2 or more times
  - **87%** gave podcasts rating of 4 or 5 (on scale of 0-5)
  - **99%** intended to use during remainder of semester

How Do You Make Podcasts?

- Find Technology You Can Work With
- Plan for Content
- Plan for Recording Practicalities
- Plan for Distribution

Making Podcasts

- Technology for Audio Recordings

Making Podcasts

- Technology for Video Recordings
  - Cameras
  - PowerPoint
- Key: Familiarity/Ease of Use/File type

Making Podcasts

- Organizing Content
  - Notes?
  - Outline?
  - Script?
- Practical Considerations
  - Minimize distractions
  - Have a plan for "mistakes"

How Do You Distribute Podcasts to Students?

- On Physical Media (CD or Thumb Drive)
- Posting on Web
  - TWEN or own Website
  - Classcaster site

Questions?

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VIDEO SERIES ON PODCASTING

I have prepared a 3-part series of videos on Podcasting in Law School that walks through the theory behind why podcasting is helpful for students and student receptiveness (Part I), the technology and strategy for making podcasts (Part II), and the actual making and distribution of a simple podcast (Part III). You can find them on the KenKristl channel on YouTube, or directly at these links:

Law School Podcasting – Part I: http://youtu.be/S7Xo0nFSwIk

Law School Podcasting – Part II: http://youtu.be/o6upSj_ywN4

Law School Podcasting – Part III: http://youtu.be/917zYwTS5Mg

I hope they re-affirm the ideas you hear in today's Workshop. Feel free to use them and share them with colleagues.

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