



Pedagogical Assessment of:
 Modern Tool Rating: 4
 Website: www.thinglink.com



Usage

ThingLink can be utilized as an educational tool for the features it offers in content creation and information presentation. ThingLink falls into a similar category as Glogster and Prezi, which offer users an alternative to traditional assignment and presentation formats. These types of tools utilize the collaboration of a wide number of online media services to create something new. This type of service provides students with a range of possibilities to express themselves beyond single traditional methods and allows educators to dynamically engage users with a unique way of presenting information.

Ease of Access

The service is cloud based so there is no need to download and install software with files being on a specific computer. Being cloud based, ThingLink allows users to access the service through multiple devices using several operating systems. Products are stored on the ThingLink site so users do not necessarily need a web site to publish but there are several features to socially share a link to the creation, leave a comment, follow the user or embed it on another site.

Thinglink offers tiered services to business and education consumers:

- Free Plan – store and tag up to 50 images, add 1 ThingLink app, access online customer service, minimal branding and no stats. Educators can request increased storage and tagging amount to 500 images by email.
- Edu Premium- 30euro a year which gives access to up to 30 class groups, advance imaging and video, premium icon libraries and the option to embed slideshow on websites/blogs plus many more features.

Pedagogical Assessment

ThingLink is a very interactive tool. It has a very wide array of features that can be utilised by both the educator and the student that will really focus in on their presentation and design skills. Students can design their digital self (create an autobiography), answer questions with rich media and create interactive presentations, mind maps and data. In addition, teachers are able to create interactive reports. It can be used for many more activities as well and provides a wonderful platform for students to be creative.

This tool offers important pedagogical elements as it allows students to work on skills such as their communication, research and presentation skills. These skills can be developed through the use of ThingLink as students need to be able to determine what they are trying to communicate to their audience through this medium they produce. Furthering this they need to ensure that the information that they relay is relevant and this requires in-depth research into what they are using this tool to communicate also if they are not familiar with the tool they will need to use their own abilities to research and learn how to use the tool. Finally they need to encompass all the research they are trying to communicate into a presentational form that is appropriate and interesting. Furthermore ThingLink gives educators a way of assessing how their students skills have developed and how they have understood a topic by looking at the media they create using ThingLink hence helping them to guide students in areas they are experiencing weaknesses.

Reviews

“The thing that I liked the most about Thinglink is that you can share the final product via url or html and post it almost anywhere. I like how easy it was for learners to use. It helped reinforce everything that they learned for later application”. Robert C. (Technology Coordinator)

“Thinglink has made great strides (both as an app, and as a website) to meet the needs of educators. This app provides students with a quick and easy way to tag and make two-dimensional, non-interactive photos more interactive. By tagging images, students can demonstrate understanding, provide links/URLs to supplemental videos or websites and truly create depth to what might otherwise be basic content. Although the app is useful, I really like the online Thinglink tool better. The app and website DO interact and talk to one another so work created on the iPad will show on your online Thinglink account, but the online web-based tool allows teachers to create .edu accounts and build classes of students with their own log-ins.” Mary H. (Educator)

Advantages

- This tool offers a new way to make education more interactive
- It is an innovation tool that offers both the students and educators a platform to present information that is unique and forward thinking
- It offers a free version that has ample features for use in education

Disadvantages

- ThingLink can be frustrating to use if you have no experience in using features such as tagging or embedding links.
- Given that ThingLink products can only be displayed on its website or embedded elsewhere, privacy and Internet safety issues should be brought to student’s attention.

- Also when using this tool students also need to be made weary of copyright and how to avoid infringing on copyright issues.

Conclusion

Overall this tool is an excellent tool to introduce creativity into teaching plans and assignments. It is well equipped for educational usages and along with practice it can be an innovative way to engage with students.

<http://bit.ly/2dq2cfO>