



Pedagogical Assessment of:

Modern Tool Rating: 4

Website: www.screencast-o-matic.com



Usage

ScreenCast-O-matic is a form of video and audio screen capture software that can be used to create video from your screen (i.e. short lectures or course tours), that can be used online or downloaded and installed. There are both free and subscription versions of this program. The subscription service allows you to directly upload videos to Google Drive, Drop Box, and a few other spaces, though you can manually upload the files to the same spaces with the free version.

The paid version also allows you a wider range of tools to play with including the ability to record webcam footage of yourself to embed in the screen cast, which could be particularly useful for online courses especially if the student is a visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learner. This also helps to personalise online learning, as the student becomes familiar with the course creator and may feel more inclined to contact them if they encounter any areas of difficulty.

ScreenCast-O-matic offers a wide variety of features including: recording, screen & webcam recording, the ability to publish to YouTube, Google Drive, Vimeo and Dropbox, to save recordings as video files, to record Computer Audio (Windows Only), edit tools, script recordings, to draw and zoom on video recordings and to use the screenshot Tool.

Ease of Access

ScreenCast-O-Matic can be accessed online or downloaded to a computer. It is intended for multiple audiences (educators students, and the general public) and provides a user-friendly interface which allows an educator to record video and audio simultaneously. The website provides useful and simplistic tutorials regarding the use of the tools. The videos will integrate with any learning management system as easily as any other video and the user has the option of uploading a Youtube video or to upload the video directly.

Pedagogical Assessment

Using ScreenCast-O-Matic students is highly beneficial as it appeals to students with different learning styles (audio, visual, kinaesthetic). From an educational perspective, it provides greater accessibility to learning material as this has been adapted by the course creator to meet the learning needs of the students. This tool can also be used to create a flipped classroom experience for students, which encourages them to develop critical thinking and independent learning skills. If a learner experiences difficulty understanding a concept, they can easily access the video (which will help to reinforce learning); encouraging students to take greater responsibility for their learning. This product can also help absent students to catch up on important learning.

<http://bit.ly/2dQYkI8>

Reviews

“Once you use ScreenCast-O-Matic (SOM), you can see an improvement in student understanding. ScreenCast-O-Matic is simple to use, to download to a computer and record. SOM will simultaneously video tape whatever is on the desktop of the computer you are using while audio taping too. You have the ability to save and embed without uploading to YouTube. This product is very useful for the absent student or flipping your class.

I've given directions to students during class and posted the video on the LMS and asked students to review the "uploaded" video assignment before coming to class. I also use this product to record assignments for rotations in my classroom. I've never had a student ask me to repeat the directions and because I save the videos, I can email videos to students who have been absent or to parents who do not understand an assignment. This tool works incredibly well with those large projects - students' can't lose the video and serves as a great reminder as well. I have also used SOM as an overview of the work expectations to be used with a substitute in class.” Shari M. (Educator)

Advantages

- The tool is available online; also, users can download an app and install on their computers
- It is pretty simple to use.
- Video tutorials are available
- It has free basic version
- The application allows taking up to 15 minutes of recording time, which can be uploaded to YouTube
- Users can record the full screen or a selected portion of it.

Disadvantages

- The free version does not record system audio.
- The free version includes a watermark.
- Simplicity comes at a price: lack of control and customizability.
- Full-screen recording is awkward to accomplish. You must DRAG the recording edges over your screen, but if you drag it out to your desktop's edges, the software's control panel becomes hidden even with the control panel at top option selected.
- Free version has a limit of only 15-seconds max time of recording.

Conclusion

Screencast-O-Matic is an incredible tool for teachers - you are really able to differentiate. It serves teachers better as they are able to see and listen to their own lesson, therefore critiquing for clarity and quality. For students, it serves as way to keep up on missing assignments and it also ensures they both see and hear what is being communicated.