

Maximizing Online Engagement and Learning through Nearpod and Skype

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Abstract: In the presentation, the researchers aim to demonstrate the online engagement and learning strategies and techniques with the combination of Nearpod and Skype on iPads. The researchers also plan to discuss the issues and solutions learned from the West Liberty University College of Education faculty who have integrated Nearpod and Skype into their eClassrooms. The findings of technology explored will be embedded in teacher preparation programs and prepare PreK-12 teacher candidates to design, develop, and implement eClassrooms with iPads dynamically inspiring students' participations, disciplines, and academic performances.

Introduction

The researchers encouraged the College of Education faculty to creatively integrate the pedagogical uses of iPads in their eClassrooms. Two exemplary applications were chosen to determine the feasibility of iPads for augmenting eClassrooms engagement and management: Nearpod and Skype. Learners could be on a Skype video/audio eClass and interact each other with enriched multimedia presentations created by teachers using Nearpod interactive features. Teachers could control online activities and monitor students' comprehension levels on a single/collective basis.

A qualitative study was conducted to gain an understanding of ten faculty's experiences in using Nearpod and Skype, as a starting point of making their online lessons engaging and organized in the programs of early, elementary, secondary, special, athletic training, exercise physiology, health, and physical educations. The findings have the potential to enhance teacher preparation program's ability to prepare PreK-12 teacher candidates to incorporate iPads into eClassrooms dynamically inspiring students' participations, disciplines, and performances.