



# Using Nearpod<sup>®</sup> to engage students in the classroom

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## Objectives

- Identify ways to apply Nearpod to engage students
- Distinguish between content slides and activity slides
- List resources that can be incorporated into a Nearpod
- Explain how to run a live session
- Identify two uses of the report feature
- List alternative software to use for classroom engagement

## Background info

### About me:

Audrey Skaggs, Assistant Professor of Clinical Lab Sciences

- askaggs@astate.edu
- Courses:
  - Clinical Chemistry (I and II) and practicums
  - Molecular Diagnostics
  - Medical Terminology

### How I came to use Nearpod<sup>®</sup>

There was a change in the way the medical terminology classes were to be delivered. Our dean made two 100-student classes and asked me to teach one of them instead of the online session I was currently teaching.

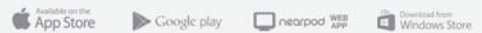
- I had already built the class for an online format
- I decided to do a flipped classroom
- I had attended a lunch-and-learn about Nearpod at A-State
- Obtained a "special projects" grant from the dean and worked over the summer to develop the class sessions

Disclaimer: I am not paid by Nearpod<sup>®</sup>, I am just a user and our university has purchased use for the faculty.

## Why Nearpod<sup>®</sup>?

### Free to Students and compatible on all devices

Nearpod is multiplatform and works on any device  
BYOD, Carts and 1:1 - no worries!



### For Faculty:

- Free trial account** – only 50MB storage and 30 students per session
- Gold account:** \$10/mo; 3G storage; 50 students per session
- School based account:** school pays; 10G storage; 100 students
  - What A-State uses
- District accounts



## Two Contexts I used it in:

### In the Flipped Classroom:

- All the content was online (resources and assessments)
- During Medical Terminology class time:
  - Quick review of basics for that chapter
  - Read through a chart & find and define medical terms
  - Case study analysis

### In Lecture:

- Used it in Clinical Chemistry I
- It needed to be a lecture based delivery
- Used Nearpod to check comprehension through out the lesson
- Added activities to encourage deeper thought processes

### What does that look like? – demo/preview



## How to build one:

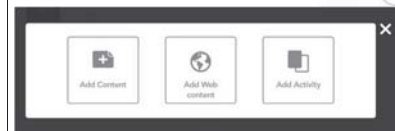
Create

### Start with what you have!

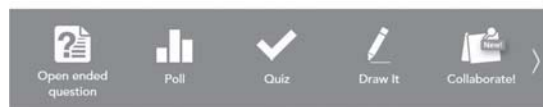
- PPT or Keynote
  - \*Most customizable option\*
- PDF
- Including: video, audio, slideshows



UPLOAD FILES



### Add activities





## Tips for running a session

My Library

### Have your own device

- Run the presentation from your tablet or phone in teacher mode
- Launch the lesson and share the code with the class
  - The code changes with each session
  - I write the code on the board

### If you have a presentation podium/computer:

- Join your Nearpod session **AS A STUDENT**
- This allows for you to be able to point out things on the slide
- If students get disconnected they are not totally lost
- Allows for more engagement



### When you build your presentation, allow time for the activities.

I have found that I can do about 30 slides in 60 minutes, for example: 17 content slides and 13 activity slides. Open responses take longer than polls, so estimate accordingly.



## During a session

### Can see who is logged in and who might be disconnected

- Useful in small classes
- Get class count with a quick glance
- Sometimes students get kicked out and have to log back in – it will count them twice

### Answers can be shared with the class anonymously

- Open-ended questions
- Draw it
- Polls – show results for the whole class
- Quizzes - if you share results, it will give each student their score
  - As they answer the quiz questions you can see their answers
  - Correct ones are green, incorrect one are red
- This removes the barrier of embarrassment if they get it wrong
  - I do share wrong answers so we can talk about them
  - I never divulge the student's name
  - I do praise right answers by name!



## Session Reports

Reports

### Use it to track attendance

- Can download the report file
- Summary has every student present and % participation
- Can review all the answers given

### Verify participation

- Can elect to give a grade based on participation \*(I do this)
- Could give a grade based on amount of correct answers
  - I personally don't do that because I want engagement
  - I want them to try even if they are wrong

### I always have a "Any Questions ?" slide at the end of each Nearpod session.

- I use the report to pull up the questions asked
- Any questions asked on that slide were answered through an announcement email to the whole class after every session
- You can also cover the questions at the beginning of the next lesson



## Other tips

My Library

### Can send a session as homework

- For students who were sick?
- If you are sick?
- Snow days?
- Interactive homework

### Other similar software:

- Socrative or i-clicker
  - Use your own presentation
  - Build questions in your presentation
  - Use Socrative/ i-clicker as a response system
  - Socrative – free version
- Top Hat
  - \$25/semester for students
  - Access cards can be stocked in campus bookstore
  - Free for teachers
  - Very similar to Nearpod

