

NearPod: An online student engagement tool



Overview:

NearPod is an online student engagement tool which allows instructors to embed interactive slides within Google Slides. Instructors pace students through the slides and are able to view student responses in real time as well as share responses with the whole class.

Why and when to use:

NearPod is an excellent tool to use during virtual instruction in which students can view the presentation on any device along with the instructor and interact during the lesson. Through a variety of interactive slides, the instructor can engage with students. NearPod is an add-on tool within Google Slides. The interactive NearPod slides are embedded within Slides and provide a variety of choice such as a poll, collaborative board (students post responses visible to all), draw it, fill-in-the-blank, and matching. For the collaborative board, responses are visible to all and students can “like” responses. For the draw it, the instructor can share student responses with the whole class. NearPod allows for frequent check-ins as to the understanding of material as well as student engagement.

Tips:

- Create instructional materials in Google Slides and then embed NearPod slides.
- The interactive slides “collaborative board” and “draw-it” are excellent for sharing student work and collaboration.

Evidence to support this tool:

- Hakami, Mohssen (2019). *Using Nearpod as a Tool to Promote Active Learning in Higher Education in a BYOD Learning Environment*. Journal of Education and Learning; Vol. 9, No. 1; 2020.