

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Making Learning Mobile Through Podcasts

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

Students listen to podcasts about topics that will be discussed during class and answer questions about them. This is a different way to present class material while keeping students more engaged.

How to Prepare for This Innovative Teaching Practice:

The professor will need to research, review, and select appropriate podcasts that relate to and supplement the material being studied in class. Assigning the podcast one week in advance of covering the topic in class gives students the opportunity to listen to it before the discussion. The instructor attaches the podcast to the learning management system for students to download. Additionally, the instructor posts questions specific to the recording that students must respond to and turn in during the class in which the topic is discussed. While students can answer all of the questions without listening to the podcast, some of the questions are tailored such that the expected answer can only be provided if one listens to the podcast. Examples of podcast topics include how to give CPR, Lyme disease, poisonous snakes, drug use, and opioid use.

Notes From the Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

“Podcasts allow students to be mobile with their learning. Students can pause and play as needed. Suggested starting points for gathering interesting podcasts include Ted Talks, Google Search, NPR, and How Things Work.”