Tech Snacks: Student Engagement Tech

In the Office of Teaching & Learning Excellence, we try not to buy into technology hype without clear use cases and learning objectives. So far this year we've been playing with a few new tools that we think have a lot of potential for student engagement, both in and out of the classroom!

Smartphone Scavenger Hunts

goosechase.com — This app lets you quickly and easily set up and administer photo scavenger hunts. Teams of students compete to find items you assign (in the physical world), then take photo evidence at each point and post it on the app. You can assign teams (up to five per game, with the free education plan) or let students pick their own teams. A leaderboard and activity feed give live updates of each team's progress and photos.

GooseChase can be used for traditional "Go visit places" scavenger hunt activities. But it could also be used to facilitate large, multi-step lab projects or group homework assignments. Break a lab project into several steps or have students work in groups, and have them submit photo evidence of their process as they go.

To participate in a GooseChase activity, at least one student per group needs to install the free GooseChase app on their Android or Apple phone. They type in an access code that you provide, and they can join an activity immediately — no accounts or sign-ups required.

Create Interactive Screen Recordings

iorad.com — iorad is a free screen-recording tool, somewhat like the OTLE favorite Screencast-O-Matic. But Screencast-O-Matic just records a normal video of whatever is being shown on your computer screen. iorad records your mouse-clicks and actions on a website, then breaks them down into interactive step-by-step instructions that a user can follow along with. It's easier to show a demonstration than to try to explain it, go to ior.ad/6Pyh to see an example tutorial.

Iorad can be used to demonstrate a procedure on a website *or* a desktop computer application. You can also optionally record audio clips to go along with each step. Since iorad is free, students could also create and share their own screen recordings.

New Classroom Polling Options

PollEverywhere has been a great tool for classroom polling, discussion, and engagement. But as often happens with free or low-cost online apps, competitors and alternatives are always cropping up, and the original may no longer *necessarily* be the best option for this kind of activity.

mentimeter.com — Mentimeter is a new interactive lecture service, similar to PollEverywhere or Kahoot, which we've talked about in the past. It allows you to build a slideshow, and embed both polls and quizzes that students can respond to using their smartphones. In some ways, Mentimeter is easier and more flexible than either PollEverywhere or Kahoot. In other ways, it's more limited. Which tool is right for you depends on your specific needs.

Mentimeter	PollEverywhere	Kahoot
Both polling and quizzes.	Polling only in free version.	Quizzes only in free version.
Integrated slide deck.	Embeds into PowerPoint.	Stand-alone only, no embed.
Unlimited number of students in free version.	Limited to 40 students in free version.	Limited to 50 students in free version.
Limited to 2 poll questions and 5 quiz questions per slide deck in free version.	Unlimited number of questions in free version.	Unlimited number of questions in free version.