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Webinar Series on Remote Learning

TITLE
Teaching Online for Beginners

BRIEF SYNOPSIS
Teaching virtually can be a daunting challenge for even the most seasoned educator. In this session, we will breakdown the challenge by addressing online learning using the TPACK (Technical, Pedagogical and Content Knowledge) framework.

- Tools to communicate & collaborate (Technical Knowledge)
- Instructional best practices (Pedagogical Knowledge)
- Content creation and curation (Content Knowledge)

SPEAKER
Garry Smolyansky

SPEAKER BIO:
Professional Learning Coach and Professor, Seneca College

DURATION
43 min 28 sec

TIMESTAMPS

00:00 – Speaker Introduction
5:04 – Topic 1: The Framework
5:37 – What is TPACK?
11:41 – Topic 1: Takeaways
11:58 – Topic 2: The Details

12:27 – Step 1: Content Knowledge (CK)
16:39 – Step 2: Pedagogical Knowledge (PK)
22:44 – Step 3: Technical Knowledge (TK)
26:40 – Topic 2: Takeaways
27:00 – Topic 3: Reflection and Next Steps

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Q&A with Garry Smolyansky:

Teaching Resources

Q: Where will I find the TPACK material on YouTube?

A: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FagVSQlZELY

Q: How do you use all 3 of the parts of TPACK?

A: Start with what you want to teach, then select one strategy you could use to teach it, and add technology if needed.

Q: Where can I find the Harvard University learning objectives and goals information?

A: https://bokcenter.harvard.edu/learning-goals-and-learning-objectives

Q: Where I can I find more information about online teaching strategies?

A: https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/spotlight-on-strategies

Q: Is GoToWebinar an AWS tool?

A: No, GoToWebinar is a publically available tool. Amazon offers a different online communication tool called Amazon Chime.

Q: Can you explain what is meant by a "platform."

A: Any online system to communicate with students and parents. It may be a learning management system.

Q: Which platforms are most secure?

A: That is a tough question to answer since most vendors use a "shared security model" where some of the responsibility is yours and some is theirs. You should work with your school's IT department to decide the best fit for you.

Q: What do you think is the best option for video conferencing?

A: There are several good tools out there and each has strengths and benefits. You will have to find the one that is the best fit for you (price, functionality, ease of use, etc.)

Q: What is AWS?

A: Amazon Web Services (AWS) provides reliable, scalable, an inexpensive cloud computing services. Learn more at https://aws.amazon.com/

Q: What visuals do you recommend?

A: Simple is best. Pictures are best, numbers are second best and words are the most difficult to process!

Student Strategies

Q: Can you provide basic strategies for teaching adults who are learning English?

A: SOS would work. It is a set of strategies where you can make the content as complex or simple as you need. Learn more here https://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/spotlight-on-strategies

Q: What skills do you think are most important for students to develop right now?

A: In my opinion, the skills for students to learn are the same as they would learn in the classroom. The only thing that has changed is the platform & strategies for delivering instruction.

Q: What is the best way to record hours of student attendance?

A: Tough without data. I'd certainly suggest dropping in for office hours with other educators who have been doing online instruction for a while.

Q: What is the best way to get my students to communicate with each other?

A: There are many platforms that allow for communication among students. Be aware though, communication should be monitored as some students can take advantage of this.

Tools & Techniques

Q: Other than Zoom, what other online tools are there?

A: Amazon Chime, Canvas, Blackboard

Q: I've never used blog posts. Any ideas?

A: I am using WordPress and posting to broadcast information, see: https://prof.msoltys.com/?page_id=1096 - I find it a very valuable tool

Q: Thanks so much for this, really helpful. Do you deliver online real-time computer programming seminar sessions? Do you have any comments about how effective this is please?

A: Yes we do, and I find teaching coding online to be very effective - as I mentioned my favorite tool there is Cloud9.

Q: What do you advise with regard to something like mathematics?

A: The old style, now unfortunately abandoned, is to have students solve a problem "on the blackboard". I taught a lot of mathematics over the years, and I find it a very good learning experience (but it is important to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the class for it to be effective). This style could be simulated on Zoom.

Q: Is AWS Educate free software?

A: Yes!

Q: How do you upload presentations embedded with videos to make sessions lively?

A: Depends on your tools, but I use my WordPress blog a lot to host content, and then share it by sending links.

Q: Is the https://aws.amazon.com/robomaker/ course browser-based for students to work on their robots in a browser?

A: RoboMaker can be used via a browser.

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Resources:

Amazon Chime – Amazon Chime is a communications service that lets you meet, chat, and place business calls inside and outside your organization, all using a single application.

AWS - Amazon Web Services (AWS) provides reliable, scalable, an inexpensive cloud computing services.

AWS Educate - Through AWS Educate, students and educators have access to content and programs developed to skill up for cloud careers in growing fields.

AWS Educate Office Hours for Educators and Students – Webinars, office hours, and training sessions for educators and students

GoToWebinar – GoToWebinar is a communications tool that allows users to deliver online and video conferences.

Spotlight on Strategies – SOS strategies are quick and easy teaching methods to help enhance student engagement in the classroom and create active versus passive learners.

Harvard University Online Resources – Harvard University online resources are a knowledge base of ideas and best practices for teachers.

TPACK – TPACK represents the Technical, Pedagogical, and Content Knowledge framework that identifies types of knowledge needed by educators to teach effectively within a technology-enhanced learning environment.