NUFS Workshop 2013

Newsletter No. 5

Workshop in September

\<Part 1 \>

Date: September 14, 2013, 10:30-14:00
Venue: NSC College
Presenter: Tom Kenny (NUFS)
Title: "The iPad in the Classroom"
Abstract:

The iPad is the hottest consumer product in the world today, and teachers everywhere want to know how to use it to improve their teaching and their students' learning. In this workshop, Tom will show the basics of iPad use, demonstrate how popular apps can make classroom management easier, and report on students' reaction and attitude toward using specific apps. Participants will get an iPad with wifi to use during the workshop to try it out for themselves!

The number of participants: 33

1. Interesting activities you might want to use in your class. Why?

- I think the quiz apps + dropbox could dramatically change the way I communicate with my students.
- In my teaching context, it is not possible (at the moment) for students to use iPads. However, I often use an iPad to show info on a screen so the Slideshark app will be very useful.
- Dropbox – This will be useful when I work with my colleague on the same project.
- A lot of interesting apps. Especially Evernote I would like students to create their own portfolio. I will also have students put their own conversation in dropbox.
- 'Explain Everything' would be beautiful app for students to give a presentation. It helps them to make presentations better, and students do not have to memorize their speeches automatically, but they can show pictures and graphs and give a speech relating with them.
- I have been using the iPad at school to basically present. I am amazed about how much apps are out there for the classroom. I will be looking at Quizlet or something similar for elementary schools. I will also use Evernote to make all my files organized.
- I would like to have my students use Voicerecorder to record their reading and submit it as an assignment. Also I would like to use Skitch or Penultimate to make visual aids.
- I thought E-clicker would be pretty useful, because I don't have to walk around the class to check their answers.

2. What you learned from today's workshop.

- I have learned that using an iPad could bring a good opportunity to make our students' life easier. This is beneficial for both learners and educators. I think I should buy one to take advantage of the technology.

- I've learned that there are many apps to attract my students. Students who are weak at learning English will have an interest in English class if I use Skitch or Voicerecorder.

- I think it will take some more time till we junior high can use the technology in our environment but we need to catch up all the time so that we can use it in our teaching right away when the time has come.

- There were so many apps introduced today and I want to try it in my classes. I think advancement in technology is so fast and as educators we need to have adequate knowledge on how to fully utilize this. Students are becoming more engage in this so we need to take this in our classrooms for our advantage. We need not to be intimidated instead we should learn with our students.

- I'm a quite low-tech person, however, now I become interested in introducing iPad or using iPad by myself for teaching English. I hope the prefecture provide our students iPad someday near future.

- IPad is a special tool for English teaching. I have been very interested in tablet but I didn't know how I can use it for class. Today I got a hint how to use it effectively. So I want to buy one and make a plan.

3. Questions and Answers

1) What's the easiest app to experiment with Quizzer for students?

The absolutely easiest app would be "Socrative" http://www.socrative.com/ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYURj1QU0Ls

Teachers download the teacher's app, students download the student app to their iPhone or Android. As long as everyone in class is on the same wifi, it works well. Hassle-free for the teacher, as there's nothing to input. Just ask the students a question, and they can respond by pressing True/False or a multiple choice a-b-c-d-e- (great for assessing something) or a short answer. Then the whole class can see how many students got the correct answer, how many got it wrong, what's everyone's opinion about x, and so on.

2) How should we use Dropbox and Evernote differently? What the purpose for each? I understand we can share the data by Dropbox, but is there any different effective purpose to use each?

First, they are web services that you have to register for. You can use them on your home PC/Notebook/Mac) And you should! You'll love them.

Second, Both of these web services have APPs so you can use them anywhere. On a public computer, on your Smartphone, on your iPad. The app version of DropBox and

the PC version have slightly different functions, but it's the coolest thing to put something in your folder on your PC at home, and then access it on your iPhone to show students. No more carrying around computers or USB memory sticks.

DropBox is a file folder to 'drop' stuff into, for someone to get later. You can store very large files, if necessary. You cannot *create* anything with Dropbox, only put things or take things from there.

Evernote is a notebook that you can write notes into, with a word processor similar to Word. You can also place many kinds of small files onto notebook pages, jpgs, voice memos, PDFs, etc.

I recommend everyone to get DropBox and check it out. Make a folder, invite students, tell them to put stuff in it...that's the easiest way to introduce DropBox to students.

Here are links to videos I made about DropBox:

Video

#1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zPvnroRHDs&feature=share&list=PLyxtbbgzAqw0H7yPf8cktiaWzxn96Bro4

Video

#2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2AnPVJaqyM&feature=share&list=PLyxtbbgzAqw0H7yPf8cktiaWzxn96Bro4

If you're feeling super-otaku, you should check out Evernote later. I use it as a Notebook for EVERYTHING, and therefore can access any note anytime from anywhere, PC, iPhone, etc. I don't share anything from Evernote with others. It's for me!

3) Could you tell us more about Explain Everything? Can we use it with Keynote?

Explain Everything   http://www.explaineverything.com/ has tremendous potential as a tool for teachers to explain stuff and to teach students how to produce their own explanations. (Keynotes and PowerPoints are good at showing, but it takes someone to present it to EXPLAIN it!) . It's like taking Keynote or PowerPoint to the next level. Their blog is excellent http://www.explaineverything.com/ee-showcase.html

Explain Everything allows you to import a Keynote from your DropBox, record audio on it, and mark it up, and perform other functions.

4) Can I make '.wmv' video file from Explain Everything or Evernote file?

Yeah, most of us teachers are personal tech consumers first, so it's natural that we'd think of the iPad as a video watching or web browsing tool. But once we get some experience using the iPad, it's great as a quizzing tool, presenting tool, production tool, good for storing data like contacts, student info and portfolios, and so on.

About Explain Everything--

No, I don't think you can export to .wmv, only .mp4 or .mov files. But I don't think that's a real disadvantage as mp4 can be played on anything, but .wmv is specific to Windows. I love this app because all the costs are upfront. While soooo many apps (Nearpod, Voicethread, Prezi etc) let you produce something, you have to store it on their site and then as soon as you exceed a certain amount of storage, they want you to "go premium" or upgrade. It's very annoying. Explain Everything allows you to export

your productions to your camera roll or to Evernote, or to DropBox....no hidden fees.

Explain Everything has a free guidebook you can get from iBooks. I strongly recommend it.
 http://www.explaineverything.com/ibook--itunesu.html

5) Is 'e-clicker' useful in making surveys? I'm doing on action research and I think if this will work this will same much time, distributing questionnaires, and also finding out the results could be done in one click. Is this possible?

Eclicker is very nice, and a satisfying interactive experience for the student. They know right away if they got the right answer, and we teachers get a list of all students answers to all questions.

There are a few negatives to using the app:

1) it takes time to set up your quiz beforehand, so if you're super-busy, this might be a pain.

2) there's always some student who will have tech trouble (wifi is slow, etc) and while you're waiting for that to resolve, the rest of the class will get bored quickly. At worse, the app will freeze up on a student, and they'll have to close it, log in again, which is very frustrating for the student and nerve-wracking for the teacher because the whole activity isn't working smoothly (and I want everything to ALWAYS to be smooth and perfect, and it almost never is!)
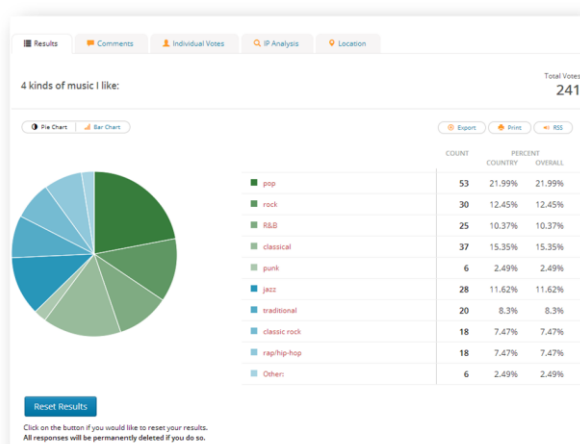
The tech advances are happening at lightning speed. It's really challenging keeping up with it, considering what's worth checking out and testing it in class.

I think online webservices like Surveymonkey, PollDaddy and even Google Docs would be better than any app I can think of for getting data for action research! (easier to build on line, easier one-click export of data.)

6) What is a good app for compiling survey information, ie. the descend island scenario where students choose the best items to survive and the app can rank them in order?

Skitch and Penultimate are sensational teacher-centered tools. Plug the iPad into the projector, and a chalkboard (or dried-up whiteboard markers) is necessary. And if you have an Evernote account, everything you show in Skitch or Penultimate is saved immediately to Evernote.
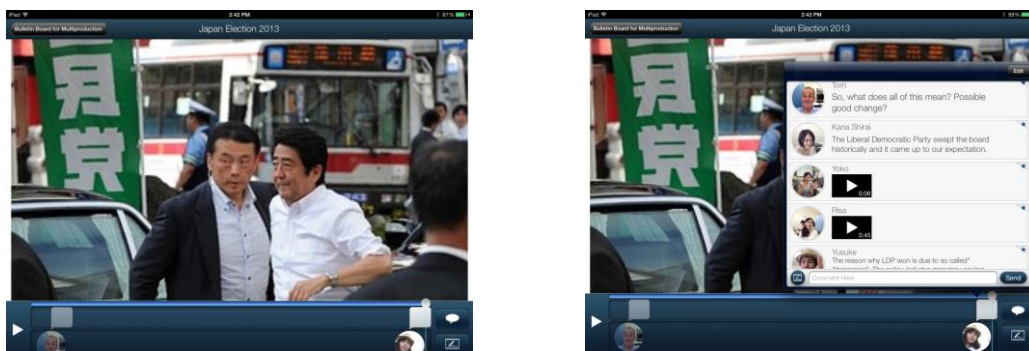
Nancy's challenge about how to present the desert island scenario caught me off guard during my talk, but I might have a solution now :-) This is not an app, but it's a free web service which may be of use to teachers: PollDaddy.   https://polldaddy.com/

Set up a question like, "of these 5 items, which three would be of most use to you on your deserted island?" Results are instantaneous.

Then, take a jpg of the results and post it on a discussion thread. like the iPad's Ask3.

I didn't have time to introduce *Ask3* by Techsmith in our Workshop, but I have used it and I like it. It's free, easy to use for students and teachers. Highly recommended!   http://www.techsmith.com/ask3.html

The sample video on their page isn't very enlightening for ESL teachers looking for ideas, but this screeshot from my iPad might give you a better idea of how we can use it:

7) I'm very interested in using this kind of IT, but I'm a bit worried about privacy or security issues. I'd like know your opinions or experiences.

    All apps take a little time to understand, so take it easy, and do it little by little!

And remember that, because students are more tech-savvy than before from carrying around their smartphones, It's not difficult for them to understand basic tasks like, "record an conversation with a partner in Voice recorder and upload it to DropBox for me to listen to."

    I worry about security too. I don't put things like PIN numbers or Passwords in DropBox or Evernote. But for passing docs temporarily between students and from student to teacher, I think DropBox is a worry-free. I was more worried that students might try to delete others' files (itazara), but that's NEVER happened.

    I use a super-otaku service called 1Password by a company called Agilebits for the passwords I store in the Cloud. Let me explain why: I have 2 PCs, a Mac, an iPhone and an iPad. And I have about 200 logins (username & password) that I can't remember. But with 1Password, all my passwords are available to me on any of my devices any time, and they're synced automatically. I change my master password regularly. After 2 years, I've never had any security breach!

8) Do you have any personal pages like facebook or weblog, something like that to show some of your new teaching apps for teaching? If so, I'd like to know to follow.

    A couple of you asked about how to get more of my stuff. I have some YouTube pages
 http://www.youtube.com/user/tomkennyjapan and http://www.youtube.com/user/NagoyaGaiDaiENGLISH
 Some of these videos may be of interest to you and your students. I also blog occasionally at
 http://nicetalkingwithyou.com/tomkenny and on Facebook at
 https://www.facebook.com/TomKennyInternational   Please subscribe or like...or whatever!

<Comments from Tom>
1) I would like to have my students use Voicerecorder to record their reading and submit it as an assignment.

    You could even put the voicerecorder file of your students reading something into an app like "Explain Everything" and then pause their talk to correct their pronunciation!

2) I have been using the iPad at school to basically present. I am amazed about how much apps are out there for the classroom. I will be looking at Quizlet or something similar for elementary schools.

I recommend the Quizlet web service, accessed either via PC or via web browser on the iPad. Much more functional than the actual Quizlet app.

3) Instead of a question, I would like to make a suggestion. Maybe it would be really helpful to ask the participants to pre-install(download) apps that were used today (or in class) to cut on the prep time.

For future workshops, I would definitely send around a list of apps to be pre-installed. Another tactic might be to have an iPad with everything preinstalled that 3 teachers can huddle around....there simply weren't enough iPads to go around this time! Additionally, it would be good to take, say, 3 apps to focus on, so that we could get much more "hands-on" with each!

4) Making my students create their own presentation using these apps would be great idea! I just hope we have good wi-fi setup in class nad some iPads to share.

A note about presenting with the iPad.

When students prepare a Keynote outside of class and then show it in small groups around the class, no wifi is necessary. The file is already on their device. This is true of the iPad or iPhone. However, Keynote is not the only choice for presenting from an iPad or iPhone. A student who does a PowerPoint can show that PowerPoint around the classroom by accessing it through Slideshark.   Please see my short YouTube video about it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o61KUDwgP_I

5) I'm focusing on 'self-expression' skill in my students, therefore I will record their 'Show & Tell' action and share with students' parents. This could be '発表会' to watch each kid's improving English level.

Evernote as a journal might be a very good way to achieve your goal. It's possible to make a shared notebook so that classmates and their parents can view how they're expressing themselves. And of course, Explain anything productions can be embedded onto journal pages in Evernote.

6) There are many apps that I want to try. In order to use iPad in class, I think we need to get the environment that everyone can be connected to wi-fi.

I think that's coming soon. At my university, wifi connectivity wasn't available a year ago. Then there were a few wifi hotspots in some buildings. Just one year later, wifi is everywhere -- accessible in classrooms, library, and student lounges. Quality is sometimes poor, and there are dropouts, but student complaints have decreased.

That's it for the questions you have. Thanks very much.

From the comments I read, I got the feeling that eClicker impressed you, that DropBox is something you might find useful and that teachers would like Quizlet.

I apologize that there wasn't more hands-on interaction -- I think that I felt a little too compelled to share A LOT of info because I had learned so much over the last year.

\<Part 2\>

Date: September 14, 2013, 14:30-17:00

Venue: NSC College

Advisors: Kazuyoshi Sato, Nancy Mutoh (NUFS), Robert Croker (Nanzan University)

Abstract: Monthly reports on action research

The number of participants: 13

Robert gave us wonderful advice about how to create charts and present data effectively. Please have a look at this:

http://www.nufs.ac.jp/cms/cms-files/20130924-125804-5483.pdf

Workshop in October (Scheduled)

Date: October 19, 2013, 10:30-14:30 (Part 1), 14:30-17:00 (Part 2)

Venue: NSC College, Building Minami, Room A31

Presenter: Marc Helgesen (Miyagi Gakuin Women's University)

Title: "Do-It-Yourself NeuroELT: Making your textbook more brain friendly"

Please send an email to Chihaya (chiha143(at-mark)nufs.ac.jp) to attend this workshop.