MACE CoP Communication Tools

FSE eLearning

Todays objective

The aim for today is to:

- Highlight the range of Online communication tools – Blackboard and non-Blackboard

- Share how these tools have been used and developed

- Discuss your thought and address questions

Communication

Broad term – Allows us to:

- Provide information to students

- Engage with students

- Communication amongst students

- Synchronous or Asynchronous

- Sharing or thoughts, ideas, plans
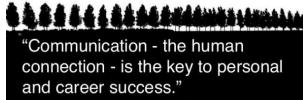
- Give and receive feedback

Develop

- Sense of community

- Flexible learning

- Reflective thinking

- Critical thinking

- Build relationships

"The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through."

-Sydney J. Harris

"What is the shortest word in the English language that contains the letters: abcdef? Answer: feedback. Don't forget that feedback is one of the essential elements of good communication." - Anonymous

"Communication - the human connection - is the key to personal and career success."
- Paul J. Meyer

"I don't start with a design objective, I start with a communication objective. I feel my project is successful if it communicates what it is supposed to communicate."
- Mike Davidson

Overview of Blackboards tools

Range of communication and collaboration tools in Blackboard. Which tools is most appropriate for your communication aim.....

- Calendar
- Email
- Contacts
- Wikis
- Blogs
- Journals

- Groups
- Announcements
- Discussion Board
- Collaborate
- Tasks

Five Stage Model Design – Gilly Salmon

Communication tools in use at UoM

How announcement & discussion boards have been used

- Xiaolei Fan CHEN10092 – Make frequent effective use of Announcements to highlight key information to students.

- Carlos Avendano CHEN30061&64211– Provide students with the options for anonymous posting in discussion boards – students have make extensive use of the tools and tutor also provides feedback

- Martin Gillie MACE10010&11001 – used discussion boards to help students develop knowledge and understanding.

  EPS BEST IN ELEARNING
  THE RESULTS
  Click to view more

- Fiona Saunders MACE44011&60023 – Used discussion boards for two way communication and allow students to support each others queries.

  EPS BEST IN ELEARNING
  THE RESULTS
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Alternative tools:

Communication tools in use at UoM

How Blog and Journals have been used

- Vicky Coker EART10262 - Used weekly blogs as part of students assessment. Students developed reflective writing skills and engaged more in the learning space.

- Paul Cowell MATS30170 – Uses Journal for students to create e-Logs of their experience on the course. Student are distance learners and make effective use of the communication tools, creating multimedia content in there journals.

- Teaching for Researchers – The cross Faculty programme use the Blackboard Blog tools to assess students and also allow students to consolidate their thoughts with this tool throughout the course.

Alternative tools:

Communication tools in use at UoM

How groups have been used

- Colin Webb CHEN30012&30022&30032 – Have create group sets to put students into project groups. Students have there own shared groups work area where they can exchange files, create wikis and blogs have hold group discussions.

- Neil Mitchell EART20271 – Used the group tool to assign students to Lab groups – student would attend a lab session as assigned with their groups and then additional content and Blackboard tests would be releases to each lab groups according.

- New Academics Programme – Uses the group tool with new cohorts. Content is release using adaptive release setting to cohort groups and smart view are enabled in the grade centre to easily mark students work.
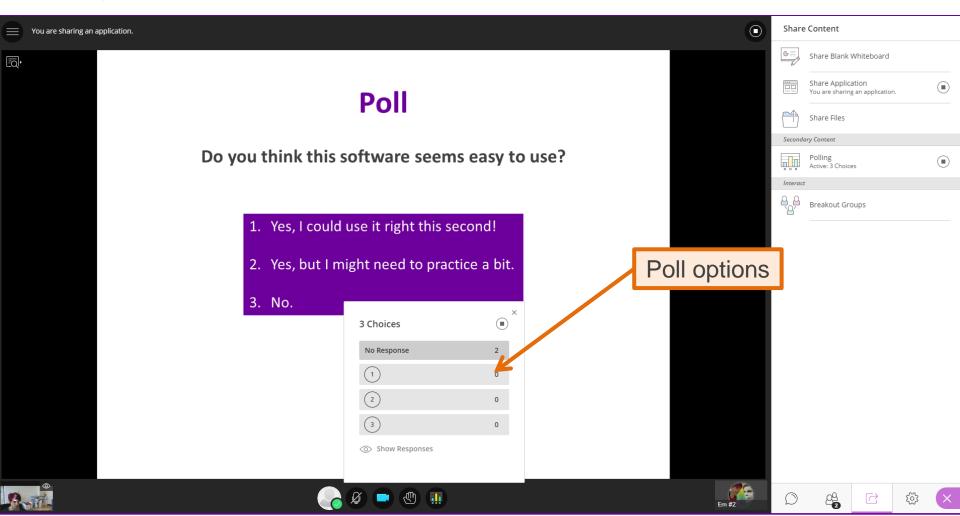
Alternative tools:

Additional Communication tools

Using Blackboard Collaborate

Additional communication tools

How social media and response ware has been used

- Jonathan Sly – FOUND10072 incorporated a Facebook page in his course. Students could discuss and collaborate on here as part of their course.

- Paul Chan MACE30462 – used live Twitter feeds in lectures and encourage students to interact.

- Delia Vazquez MATS30151 – display the staff Twitter feeds within the Blackboard space to increase communication options and encourage engagement with real world professionals and opportunities.

- Chris Blanford MATS64591 – is using Poll everywhere with students for in class polling and used a similar approach in 2015/16.

View further details of response systems and recap your knowledge with - Fiona's Response Systems blog post

Click the picture to view an interactive version

Further notes

Further guidance on Blackboard communication and collaboration tools, including how to use and set up the tools follow the link below:

[Use and set up of Blackboard communication tools](#)

Alternatively we offer training both 1-1 or small groups session – details can be found on our website:

[eLearning training opportunities](#)

For ideas and inspiration on using communication tools - View Jisc's list of HE social media influencers, linked below , to see what academics at a range of other Universities have used/created:

[Jisc's HE social media influencers](#)

Summary

- Think about the aim for your communication

- Select the most appropriate tool or method of delivery
  - -Range of Blackboard tools or external tools & Social media, response ware

- Make use of the appropriate space in your Blackboard course

- Queries or need support with tools…..

Where to find us:

Website:
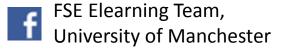http://www.elearning.eps.manchester.ac.uk/

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Follow us: @FSEeLearning   FSE Elearning Team,
                                        University of Manchester

Any Questions?
Experience to share?
Thought?

"Communication works
for those who work at it."
- John Powell