

Teachertube and Educreations: Asynchronous & synchronous communication tools

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For the module four assignment regarding communication tools, I was assigned to work with David Cottle. Both David and I immediately made contact within hours of the assignment being sent. Our method of communication began on Blackboard then moved to campus mail and eventually, we exchanged phone numbers. After a few text messages we spoke on the phone and together, we came up with a game plan for the assignment.

The two communication tools we chose to evaluate for this assignment were vlogs using Teachertube, and whiteboard using Educreations. David suggested using whiteboard because he would be using that communication tool for work in the future. I chose vlogs because my son is interested in vlogs and I thought this would be a great way to connect with him. David and I agreed that the only way to fully experience both tools was to both create tutorials or lessons like a teacher and send the end product to each other for evaluation. The evaluation would be done from the perspective of a student and we would reflect on this experiment in our paper. Before this assignment, both David and I had never used either communication tools so we both were excited to learn how to utilize Teachertube and Educreations.

Throughout the assignment, David and I communicated via text message and campus email (not blackboard). We chose both forms of communication because we thought it was much faster than using Blackboard.

### Teachertube

My vlog adventure begin with creating a vlog on my iPhone. My vlog is not fancy and does not have edits, music or touch-ups; it is simply four-minutes of straight talk of something I do everyday, budget the family account. I do have to admit that I was frantic about the recording and spent a few hours learning about vlogs before I attempted to create one. I thought vlogs had

to have music, professional takes and lots of editing. I had even gone as far as creating a script of what I would say once the camera started rolling.

The vlog was easy to record but did require a few takes. Once the recording was completed, I felt accomplished then I realized I did not even know how to begin uploading a vlog. I had to search for a tutorial hoping I would be given step-by-step guidance on uploading vlogs but there were so many to choose from, and many were not that great. I had gone as far as searching on Teachertube for help but did not find any information that was helpful. I had expected at least a tutorial on uploading vlogs to the site but found nothing. Through multiple trial-and-errors, I finally was able to upload the video only to learn that videos had to undergo a review process for approval. Teachertube did not share their methods on the process or procedure for review. Worst of all, no timeframe was given.

My experience in a nutshell was negative. Recording the vlog took three takes; uploading the vlog to Teachertube was disastrous and took me four tries (a total of two hours spent on uploading alone); and there was no assistance from the platform which meant that each time I messed up, I had to figure it out on my own and teach myself how to use Teachertube. At the end of the process I became frustrated when I learned that after all the time and effort to create and upload the vlog, it had to undergo a review process by Teachertube. When the vlog was finally accepted onto the site, I sent David a link.

As to whether I would use vlogs as a teaching tool may be something I would have to seriously consider but would not be something I would rule out altogether. Granted, my son did reassure me that the first vlog does take some time and that the more I did it, the better I would become, but that brought little reassurance.

From the student perspective, judging a vlog was much easier than creating one. Unfortunately, David also struggled with uploading his vlog so I was not able to “judge” his work. Looking at my vlog however, it seemed to be just another vlog (I speak as a student). I would not have ever known I had any issues (as a teacher). It was easier for me to watch the tutorial, stop it and play it again. I also was able to watch it more than once and paused the video now and again. The biggest issue I found as a student was that I could not leave any comments about the vlog or communicate with the instructor on Teachertube. I had expected Teachertube to be similar to YouTube where you could leave a thread of comments but that was not the case. Initially, I thought maybe Teachertube required me to log into my account before I could leave a comment but that was not an option and I was not able to leave any message for the instructor. As a student, this issue may pose a problem since the communication was one-way.

### Educreations

I loved using the whiteboard, Educreations. It was fun, easy, effortless to create a tutorial and did not take as much time to record the lesson. I did a recording on the equation used for Pearson’s Correlation. I did three takes but on average it took me two minutes for each take; a total of less than 10 minutes as a whole was spent on the recording. When I finally had something I was satisfied with, I clicked “done” and the program walked me through the process to save and send to my friends if I wanted to. I was even given the option to save the tutorial on the site and have anyone view it, send it to my students, send it to my school, or send the tutorial only to a selected few. I created a total of four tutorials.

For one tutorial I created a storyboard. I wanted to experiment with the program using a demonstration that was not math related. I typed out my story first and then was able to record myself reading the story and drawing along the way. Because I am still new to Educreations, I

messed up a few times but continued with the story. I must warn you that the drawings are horrible but I was able to do something other than a math equation.

On a negative note, whiteboard is a one-way communication tool. Teachers can create lessons, send it to their students but students cannot comment about the tutorial or raise questions on the tutorials site. When David sent me his whiteboard creation I was able to watch it but had no place initiate dialogue.

One question I had but was not able to find an answer to, was how long recording's could be? David's demonstration lasted eight minutes but I wondered what length of time was allowed for the length of recordings. I searched a few tutorials on Educreations and saw some that went on for thirty minutes but I did not see anything longer than that.

Overall, with the time I was given for this assignment and the quick 4-minute demonstration on Pearson's Correlation that I created, I would have to say it was pretty easy to use Educreations. I had so much fun I created four different tutorials and one storyboard I could share with family and friends. The best part of the whole experience was when I registered to Educreations, I was immediately contacted by customer service via email, who provided me a name and email address of someone who could assist me if I had any problems. For someone like me who is not as tech savvy, that brought some assurance that Educreations wanted me to be comfortable using their product.

## References

Educreations (2014). *Educreations: Teach what you know. Learn what you don't*. Retrieved from <http://www.educreations.com>.

Teachertube (2014). *TeacherTUBE*. Retrived from <http://www.teachertube.com>.