eTools: Using Panopto in the Classroom

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Introduction

Innovative educators routinely seek and experiment with various learning technologies in order to meet their pedagogical goals and enhance student learning outcomes. Common among such technologies are learning management software programs that allow faculty to record lectures, flip classrooms, capture student speeches or group presentations, and engage their students in the classroom and beyond. While many educators take advantage of video capture for the purpose recording a lecture and posting it for students to view on a learning management system, the capabilities of pedagogical software are often able to support the unique needs of educators in a multitude of ways that extend beyond basic lecture capture. One such easy-to-use and multifaceted learning management software is Panopto.

What is "Panopto?"

Panopto is software that allows users to record, manage, and search audio as well as video content. What's more, Panopto is able to interface seamlessly with many common learning management or course management systems such as Canvas, Moodle, and Blackboard, among others. Panopto can be used to record lectures for face-to-face or online course delivery, capture student presentations from a variety of devices (e.g., smartphones, iPads, laptops, computers), test content mastery via quizzes coupled with video, and even provide a mechanism for written and verbal feedback on student assignments submitted via video. One of the most unique features

about Panopto is that all content is searchable based on topic content so faculty and student users can search for specific key words or topics in any audio or video file.

In addition to Panopto's video capture and interactive communication capabilities, it allows video distribution to occur in a variety of ways. Faculty members may choose to integrate Panopto into a learning management system or simply create hyperlinks that allow individuals or groups to view content. Panopto provides the opportunity for video creators to decide who has access to content and end users, whether members of your campus or not, are not required to download Panopto software to view content sent by hyperlink. Given this feature, Panopto lives up to its mission to "democratize knowledge sharing with video."

How can I get Panopto for use in the classroom?

Panopto is available on the company website (panopto.com) as well as in app stores for both Windows and Apple products. Panopto offers a 30-day free trial of the product and the cost of licensing for higher education departments or institutions is contingent upon the number of full-time students enrolled in your department or at your institution. Panopto can be downloaded to desktop computers, laptops, tablets, iPads, and iOS as well as Android smartphones. A brief demonstration of the product is available at demo.hosted.panopto.com, which may help educators determine if Panopto may help achieve their pedagogical goals.

How can I use Panopto in the classroom?

Panopto can be used by faculty and students alike to capture audio and/or video presentations, and those presentations may include various desktop applications such

as PowerPoint, PDF files, websites, etc. Anything you can see on your desktop, Panopto provides the opportunity to share it with your audience. Panopto may be used *in* and *beyond* the classroom. For example, content may be shared with face-to-face, flipped or online classes, individual students who may have missed an in-class discussion or assignment instructions given verbally, and even colleagues or community members with whom you may want to share content.

1. *creating content to support learning outcomes for students.* Like many learning management tools, Panopto is an ideal tool for capturing lectures in the classroom, in your office, or in the field for students to access on demand. For educators looking to flip their classrooms or perhaps capture guest experts to share with students between traditional classes, Panopto is a simple tool to master for the purpose of delivering micro-lectures, brining experts "to the classroom," providing content reviews, or developing course content that can be shared time and time again. And as aforementioned, all content can be searched by key word by creators and end users. The ability to download Panopto to iOS and Android smartphones also means that real-time course updates or video responses to student questions received by email can be captured and sent to students with ease.

2. *capturing and providing written or verbal feedback on student presentations.* Panopto is not only an effective tool for capturing individual speeches or group presentations, it's also an effective tool for providing students with feedback on such assignments. When watching student presentations, Panopto allows graders to provide time-stamped written feedback so that when a student is watching his or her speech,

the grader's feedback in presented in real-time as the speech is watched. If verbal (i.e., audio) feedback saves time or may make more sense for your assessment plans, there is also an option in Panopto to offer verbal feedback to students instead of written comments. Additionally, all student speeches (and grader feedback) is searchable in addition to having the typical pause, fast forward, and rewind functions. Whether providing feedback on student speeches, mock interviews, group presentations, or campaign pitches, Panopto provides a variety of channels to meet user needs.

3. *assessing formative and summative student learning via integrated quizzes.* A feature less common among video management software tools is the ability for educators to integrate quizzes into video lectures. With Panopto, faculty can provide lectures and ask students to respond to content-related questions *within* the lecture itself as it is viewed and/or at the end of the lecture. Responses to those questions can be graded or non-graded and are able to be exported to a course management system such as Canvas, Moodle, or Blackboard. Faculty might also consider using the quiz feature to gather data from students that might shape in-class activities or impact future content lectures. One might ask students to report whether they "have a clear understanding of how to compose two-sided transitions" or "would like to work more on writing transition statements in class." The opportunities here are as endless as your creativity. Depending on the topic of your course and/or student population, Panopto might also be an effective tool to administer and assess oral examinations.

Conclusion

Whether maintaining or expanding your existing pedagogical strategies, Panopto offers educators a multifaceted technical tool that can enhance both face-to-face and online communication courses. It also provides opportunities for faculty *and* students to communicate about course assignments in ways that are distinct from other similar technologies. If you are looking for an easy-to-use learning management software or simply want to experiment with innovative pedagogical techniques, Panopto is a reliable and versatile tool to support your endeavors.