Teaching With Technology – A Student Perspective

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The following is a summary of the presentation made by a student panel invited to speak on "Technology in Education" at the 2010 Celebration of Teaching event put on by the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University, Kingston.

Objectives:

- Describe the students' perspective on the role technology plays in the learning process.
- Reflect on where technology has succeeded and where it may be improved.
- Provide guidance for the use of online learning tools.

Student Survey: Effective Uses of Technology in Medical Education

- MEdTech is a great resource because it is a centralized repository of all course scheduling, information and materials, online communities, document sharing and announcements.
- Podcasts are an invaluable resource for when we have to miss class or lecturer speaks too quickly to take proper notes during class.
- Email is the best method for communication between faculty and students because we always use it and won't miss the announcement.
- Online Modules and Narrated Powerpoints are great preparatory materials.
- Ideal amount of preparatory time prior to a lecture is 30 minutes per hour of class.
- Online Formative Quizzes (Available through MEdTech) were greatly appreciated as an informal and unmarked self-assessment tool.

"Check Your Tech" - Mental Checklist for Online Learning Tools

- Clinical Reasoning – will this help students learn how to apply knowledge in a clinical context?
- Better than straight text – Text is a very efficient way of presenting information. Does this technology provide added value over text, or does it clutter the message?
- Barriers – Will all students be able to easily access and utilize this technology?
- Core Material – Is this core material related to the learning objectives?
- Summary PDF – A 1-page summary (such as this) is valuable for studying and reference purposes after working through the module.

Summary

1. Keep it Simple.
2. Using technology in teaching is not inherently better, nor is it inherently more appealing to students.
3. Technology itself does not teach; it is how technology is used that better learning is achieved.