

2014

Tools of Engagement: Recasting Mobile Devices in the Classroom

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Repository Citation

Cesarini, Paul and Schnepf, Jerry C., "Tools of Engagement: Recasting Mobile Devices in the Classroom" (2014). *Visual Communication and Technology Education Faculty Publications*. 35.
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/vcte_pub/35

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Teaching Innovations
Tools of Engagement: Recasting Mobile Devices in the Classroom

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Need:

To say that smartphones and tablets are popular devices among university students would be a comical understatement. Indeed, mobile technology and its pervasive affect on student life are unprecedented. Still, many university professors insist that mobile devices not be used during their classes because they feel students will be distracted. While personal technology affords access to a multitude of Internet resources, it also provides persistent connection to social media, games, entertainment, and other diversions. How can teachers keep these students engaged?

Overview:

In this presentation, we introduce recommendations to deal with the daunting challenge of engaging students distracted by personal technology. Instead of disallowing mobile devices in the classroom, we offer suggestions to leverage students' personal technology to enhance the classroom experience. We will address best practice approaches to texting during lectures, social media, academic dishonesty, and electronic communication etiquette. The presentation will be conversational and interactive, allowing audience members to contribute their own experiences and concerns.

Major Points:

- Mobile technology in a historical context
- Common issues with students using mobile devices in the classroom
- Mobile applications to engage students during lecture
- Results of a study on student perception and use of personal technology in the classroom
- Summary and recommendations

Summary:

Attendees will learn ways in which teachers can utilize student's smartphones, tablets and laptops to enhance the classroom experience. Live interactive activities will demonstrate how easy and effective these techniques can be.