

iPods as a Teaching Tool – Flexibility in Pedagogy

Having flexibility in teaching is one of the keys to successfully engaging today's learners in various types of learning environments. Learning is becoming much more a group process that can take place both inside and out of the classroom. Preparing today's teachers with the pedagogical tools they need to have this flexibility presents new challenges. One tool that can provide instructors the flexibility to teach in various learning environments while still giving them access to their digital course content is the iPod.

The iPod has the capability to store and playback text (pdf.), images, audio, and videos. Easy connectivity to virtually any type of display system including TVs, VCRs and data projectors is available via a cable provided by Apple. Using the iPod's own system digital content can be pre-set into a presentation format, or conversely, individual types of elements can easily be accessed on the fly in any order. For an instructor to have the ability to recall and display any of their digital content it means that class discussions can be supported with digital content regardless of the path they may take to their conclusions.

Instructors can create unique content that can be used on the iPod that supports the idea of anywhere, anytime learning. Providing learners with this capability can give them ample time to learn basic concepts and then use in-class time to explore more complex ideas. One such example of using anywhere, anytime learning is providing students video overviews of laboratory exercises that can be downloaded and played on computers and portable devices such as iPods. Being able to review the lab exercise before the lab on their own schedules allows students to maximize their in-lab time completing the exercises while minimizing their time asking "how do I get started" questions.