How Can I Use Voice Feedback to Improve Student Learning?

Presented by:
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Presenter Bio:

John Orlando, Ph.D. is the instructional resource manager at the Norwich University School of Graduate Studies. He has been with the program for more than five years, helping steer it from 42 to more than 1,200 students. The school now offers more than 10 masters degrees delivered entirely online. John has delivered lectures on distance education administration and business continuity management for distance education at University Continuing Education Association conferences, at the University of Wisconsin Conference on Distance Education and Teaching, and through webcasts. He has also published in business continuity management for higher education.

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How Can I Use Voice Feedback to Improve Student Learning?

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Voice Humanizes Online Education

- Welcome message
- Discussion postings
- Narrated PowerPoints

Voice Feedback on Assignments

- Study by:
  - Phil Ice, UNC
  - Kathryn Ley, University of Houston
- Audio vs. written feedback
- Online students given both types of feedback
- N=312
- Structured surveys and non-structured interviews
- Results were OVERWHELMINGLY in favor of audio.
Unsolicited Comment

• Student far preferred voice feedback

Theme One—Improved Ability to Understand Nuance

• Students indicated that they were better able to understand the instructor’s intent
• Encouragement and emphasis were clearer.

Theme Two—Increased Involvement

• Students felt less isolated and were more motivated to participate.
Theme Three—Increased Content Retention

- Retain audio feedback better
- Retain related content better
- Incorporated audio feedback into final project 3 times more

Theme Four—Increased Instructor Caring

- Audio was more personal than text
- Student quote

Theme five—Increased Quantity of Feedback in Less Time

- Mean time spent on student feedback
  - Text: 13.43 minutes
  - Audio: 3.81 minutes
- Mean quantity of feedback provided
  - Text: 129.75 words
  - Audio: 331.39 words
- 5 times greater use of adjectives with audio
How to Provide Voice Feedback

- Record stand-alone audio files
- PDFs
  - Need Adobe Acrobat 7.0 or higher
- Word 2007 files

All You Need is a Microphone Headset

Thanks for your time

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