

Share Your Voice!

VoiceThread Presentations for the Online/Hybrid Classroom

KELSEY PELHAM

LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, CULTURES, AND COMMUNICATION



Introduction

- ▶ With only traditional assessments and papers, it is easy for our online courses to start to feel dry or impersonal, despite our best intentions.
- ▶ For language and other communication-centered courses, we need a presentational component to:
 - increase student accountability (less cheating!)
 - more fully and accurately assess our students' competency
 - allow our students to shine and share their voices
 - more fully engage both students and instructors
- ▶ The problem? TIME and LOGISTICS

Enter *VoiceThread*!

- ▶ Tagline: “transforming media into **collaborative** spaces with video, voice, and text commenting.”
- ▶ The idea: create slides with text and embedded media with **voiceover** and **notes**
- ▶ Students create a free account, create a presentation, and share their link with the class (in a discussion forum, for example)
 - ▶ Increases student accountability to peers
 - ▶ Allows exposure to a wider breadth of topics
 - ▶ Could use these topics for future assessments

Example Presentation

- ▶ Course: first-semester Spanish
- ▶ Topic: "Mi familia ficticia"
- ▶ <https://voicethread.com/share/15585520/>
- ▶ Allows for assessment of the information presented as well as *pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, stylistic delivery, and aesthetics*

Example 2

- ▶ Course: fourth-semester Spanish
- ▶ Topic: the film “Voces Inocentes”
- ▶ <https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/16394347/103375776/95289995>

VoiceThread vs. Flipgrid (I use both)

- ▶ **PROS of VoiceThread:** suited for presentations at any level of formality. Allows for a more thorough visual component (text, embedded videos, images). Maximum time limit of 60 minutes.
- ▶ **PROS of Flipgrid:** best suited for informal presentations where we need only see/hear the participant, or for asynchronous interactions mimicking conversation. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes. Students can post video or text responses with free version.

My Top Reasons for VoiceThread

- ▶ Allows my students space for creativity, and many of them apply themselves more to this task than they would perhaps to a traditional paper or exam
- ▶ Much more interesting for me to grade!!!
- ▶ Can be used at all levels – I can adapt assignments and adjust rubrics as needed. It can be as *low-stakes* or *high-stakes* as you make it.
- ▶ Holds students accountable for material presented by others