

Title of Session: Using Waypoint Online
Moderator: Andrew McCann
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Room: After School Online Room

AndrewJM: Hello!

BJB2: are you all here for the Waypoint discussion?

JonKr: Yes, I am.

JonR: yes

BJB2: wonderful!

BJB2: we'll start in a minute or two.

BJB2: while we wait to see if anyone else is going to join us...

GeorgeT joined the room.

BJB2: a suggestion to new Tapped In users...

BJB2: go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window

BJB2: and click on DETACH

BJB2: hi, George. Welcome

AdalineT: Hi

GeorgeT: Hello

BJB2: detach will make your chat window larger and easier to read

JonR: thanks for the tip.

BJB2: we usually start all events with introductions. This will help Andrew know who the participants are.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

BJB2 . o O (Andrew is the discussion leader)

BJB2 looks around the room for others to intro themselves

AdalineT: I'm a math and computer science teacher in Louisiana

GeorgeT: I am an Industrial Arts teacher in Louisiana

JonR: Hi my name is Pete and I am a physical educator in Howard County Maryland and teach grades 1-5.

JonKr: I teach computer applications at the college in Fergus Falls Minnesota

BJB2: wow! a very diverse group, Andrew!

AndrewJM: You beat me to it, BJ.

BJB2 chuckles and sits on her hands

AndrewJM: Welcome and thank you for attending this After School Online session.

BJB2 turns the virtual floor over to Andrew

AndrewJM: My name is Andrew McCann and I teach English at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

AndrewJM: I am also the developer of waypoint, a tool for assessing and responding to student writing.

AndrewJM: Please ask any questions you might have as we go along – I am interested in any and all feedback. Also, please let me know if I move too quickly (or slowly).

AndrewJM: So far Tapped In has been a great forum for waypoint - to expose our approach to teachers we might never have otherwise met...

AndrewJM: And to get candid feedback...

AndrewJM: I'd like to organize our session in two parts:

AndrewJM: 1. An overview of waypoint using static webpages.

AndrewJM: 2. A 'live' demo

AndrewJM: ...if we have time.

WillW joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Will. Welcome

AndrewJM: As you will hear, waypoint is basically a way to create interactive, online rubrics...

AndrewJM: So your experiences with rubrics and assessment will be valuable.

AndrewJM: I think it is very interesting to hear about the way things work in different disciplines...

AndrewJM: And parts of the world...

AndrewJM: Waypoint began as a productivity tool.

AndrewJM: I teach 100 college freshmen per term and felt the standard process of responding to their writing – margin notes and “end comments” was inefficient and ineffective.

AndrewJM: I felt I was writing the same comments over and over again...both from student to student and to the same student on subsequent assignments.

AndrewJM: I worried about consistency issues – whether the paper I graded at 3pm on a Saturday received the same focus as one I graded at 9am that morning.

AndrewJM: I didn't like that I had little idea of the feedback had received on earlier work – I couldn't hold my students accountable for becoming active learners.

AndrewJM: These issues may not apply to your everyday educational world...but it helps to know the origins of waypoint.

AndrewJM: Perhaps it would be worthwhile pausing to ask if you use rubrics, and in what capacity/frequency...

BJB2 thinks she is much more patient during the morning classes than the afternoon classes!

AdalineT: Have used rubrics for class projects.

GeorgeT: I use a rubric in grading shop projects

AndrewJM: Great...who is the 1-5 grade teacher?

BJB2: I do use a rubric that my students have to fill out using a simple spreadsheet and draw program

JonKr: I've used rubrics more recently when grading projects

JonR: P.E. rubrics are different because many of the assessments are hands on but have used them for grading written assignments

GeorgeT: It helps to set a standard for properly grading the project from start to finish

AndrewJM: Gotcha...

WillW: I haven't used them in grading graduate students work, but I'm looking for a way to improve my feedback

JonR: it allows the student to know where you want them to go on every assignment

AndrewJM: Pete, that aspect of rubrics is something we are very interested in...

GeorgeT: I am interested in a simple rubric for writing exercises in all of my classes

AndrewJM: I think many college teachers would be hard put to explain how they evaluate papers...it is gut instinct in many cases...

AndrewJM: So students don't necessarily understand the goals of the assignment - a rubric can help.

JonR: right

AndrewJM: The goals of waypoint are:

AndrewJM: improved feedback that takes less time to create

AndrewJM: easy access to the history of comments for a student

AndrewJM: and the ability to do longitudinal assessment of student writing.

AndrewJM: Meaning assessment over time.

AdalineT: Seems like this could be used in math classes

AndrewJM: I am going to paste a URL into the chat...you can click on the URL and your browser will open a new window...

AndrewJM: Ah! Absolutely. Math...

AndrewJM: As you will see, waypoint offers to opportunity to 'deepen' the rubric - to include prewritten advice...

AndrewJM: that can be quite in-depth.

AndrewJM: Clicking on the URL I will give you in a minute will open a window and display an overview of waypoint.

AndrewJM: After the page loads, placing your mouse over the numbers at the bottom of the page will change the screenshot.

AndrewJM: The page is small, so you should be able to resize it and still see our chat session.

AndrewJM: After I display the URL I will give you a minute or two to read the first 4 steps in the overview.

BJB2 . o O (if you have a pop up blocker, hold the control key down on your keyboard as you click on the url)

AndrewJM: Thanks BJ!

AndrewJM: The URL is:

AndrewJM: http://docs.subjectivemetrics.com/home/k-12/demo/k12_demo_home.htm

AndrewJM: If you have questions, perhaps you could refer to the number of the screenshot you are looking at.

AndrewJM: Let BJ or I know if you encounter a problem...

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the URL?

BJB2 thinks everyone is looking at the url

AndrewJM: We will look at the process in a little more detail...

AndrewJM: If you are ready, click "Evaluate" in the menu of the page that I gave you.

AndrewJM: You should see 10 numbered circles - again, walking you through step by step.

AndrewJM: Adaline, if you look at #4 you will see "Adv" and "Ref" beneath the chosen text.

AndrewJM: Those areas are optional...

AdalineT: yes

AndrewJM: Advice

AndrewJM: and Reference

AndrewJM: So you could include an explanation of a particular principle.

AndrewJM: You can write it really well once...

AndrewJM: And then select it for all students who need that feedback.

AdalineT: Great. Would not repeat myself 20 times

AndrewJM: To keep things interactive it is worth sharing our Internet/computer situations.

AndrewJM: What kind of Internet connectivity and computers do you have in your schools?

JamesPi joined the room.

AndrewJM: At Drexel we have wireless Internet everywhere...but very poor computer classroom facilities.

AndrewJM: The keyboards are always broken...

JonR: when you are done evaluating all of the students can you get a printout of all the students who have the same problems?

AndrewJM: Yes...

BJB2 waves hi to James

AndrewJM: As you make choices - moving through the evaluation - your choices are recorded as datapoints.

WillW: My folks are all distance learners who have good machines and broadband connections

AdalineT: we are getting ready to have satellite internet. We have computers in the majority of the classrooms that are internet connected.

AdalineT: We have a server and router.

AndrewJM: Pete, if you go back to the first page I gave you (overview) and select the 5th button you will see a sample of data.

AndrewJM: It is helpful to know people's situations...

AndrewJM: Although I guess the Tapped In crowd is self-selected for Internet connectivity...

AndrewJM: We have middle school teachers creating rubrics in waypoint...

AndrewJM: As well as business professors...

AndrewJM: And legal writing teachers.

BJB2: not everyone in rural America has the option of choice, Andrew

JonR: plus it allows the instructor to know the weaknesses of the class so that you can make the most of your instruction

AndrewJM: The rubrics vary from one "element" (criteria) with a list of checkable items...

AndrewJM: To rubrics with 35 criteria, with each criteria containing multiple options...

AndrewJM: High school and college students really respond to the data...

AndrewJM: For writing assignments (and perhaps math), teachers can make waypoint available to their students

AndrewJM: for peer review

JonR: do you have any data on the uses in elementary

AndrewJM: By data do you mean effectiveness etc?

AdalineT: Seems like the students would exactly what you are looking for?

AndrewJM: Adaline - you mean using peer review?

JonR: How much is it used and the effectiveness.

AndrewJM: Yes, if the teacher develops a detailed rubric...

AndrewJM: and the students use it to evaluate each other...

AndrewJM: They really internalize the goals of the assignment.

AndrewJM: To go back to Pete's question:

AdalineT: Yes for peer review but also what the teacher is looking for.

AndrewJM: This is our first full year of use in widespread use.

AndrewJM: So we don't have any data yet...

AndrewJM: But teachers and administrators are appreciating the ability to create detailed rubrics...

GeorgeT: It would allow the student to evaluate if they are improving in their writing skills or not

AndrewJM: And share them amongst all the teachers in a school.

JonR: I can see the student evals being very popular in the elem setting

AndrewJM: Students have limited log in ability - but they can see their entire history of feedback.

AndrewJM: So in 10th grade they could see feedback all the way back to 5th grade...

AndrewJM: Kind of mind-blowing...

GeorgeT: Starting them in elementary would aid in their writing for junior high and high school. Most of them have such poor writing skills

AdalineT: A great way to see where they go off tangent

GeorgeT: a good evaluation tool

WillW: Students - and instructors - always appreciate being able to see positive gains

AndrewJM: We think of waypoint as a kind of post-it note...

BJB2 . o O (also good for the many schools that are turning to digital portfolios)

AndrewJM: Not the most complex thing...

AndrewJM: But it just hadn't been done before.

AndrewJM: Would you like to log in to our demo site and kick the tires?

JonR: sure

AdalineT: yes

JonKr: Sounds good

AndrewJM: I won't be able to see what you are seeing...but you can explore with some basic directions.

GeorgeT: yes

AndrewJM: A note about browsers: waypoint works best with Internet Explorer, FireFox, and Netscape on the PC, and FireFox and Netscape on the Mac.

AndrewJM: Safari on the Mac depends on whether it is up to date...

AndrewJM: If you use a popup blocker, please disable it for our website.

JonKr: How about Mozilla?

AndrewJM: Mozilla...FireFox and Netscape are both Mozilla based - if your browser is relatively up to date you should be fine.

AndrewJM: The demo site URL is:

AndrewJM: www.gowaypoint.com/wpdemo

AndrewJM: When the page updates...

AndrewJM: You will see our logo and a username/password area.

AndrewJM: Because this is our demo site the username and password are printed above the login area.

AndrewJM: So go ahead and use submetguest and guest2003 to log in.

AndrewJM: You should see a "welcome" and a menu of radio buttons across the top of your screen.

AndrewJM: There are many different functions...

AndrewJM: But we will go to the one teachers use most often: Evaluate

AndrewJM: Select Evaluate from the main menu...

AndrewJM: You should see an Assignments and Students drop down menu.

AndrewJM: We will choose "05/14/04 (16) Short Story Assignment" from the Assignments drop down.

AndrewJM: Choose a student name WITHOUT a number in front of it...

AndrewJM: The numbers represent completed evaluations for that student.

AndrewJM: Some of the last names are a bit strange...just go ahead and choose a row without a number.

AndrewJM: Anyone need any help?

AndrewJM: The scenerio here is that you have a student's paper on your desk...

AndrewJM: You might still write margin notes with a pen...

AndrewJM: And as you read you make choices from the prewritten Elements.

AndrewJM: This assignment is a college-level literature analysis.

AndrewJM: Probably something we all remember!

AndrewJM: What you see (if you made it this far) is completely customized by the teacher...

AndrewJM: You can make choices from the numbered Items beneath each Element.

AndrewJM: When you do, a window pops up giving you the chance to edit the text.

AndrewJM: This ability to edit is a key feature to waypoint...

AndrewJM: The text is NOT canned...

JonR: I don't see the assignment

AndrewJM: Ooo..my bad.

AndrewJM: The date is 2/15/05...

AndrewJM: It is the 13th assignment down the list.

JonR: thanks

AndrewJM: Sure.

AndrewJM: Of particular interest is the 9th Element...a "Checklist"

AndrewJM: You can choose as many options as you want...

AndrewJM: Many of the options include the Advice and Reference text I referred to earlier.

AndrewJM: The automatic popping up of the edit window can be turned off...

AndrewJM: So teachers can make rapid choices...

AndrewJM: And only click "edit" when they want to update the prewritten text.

AndrewJM: At this point I'll stop listing out features...:)

AndrewJM: And see if there are any questions - hopefully some comments and first reactions.

JonR: wow, this rubric is so detailed

AndrewJM: If you have made some choices and edited some text, you can "Save" the evaluation by clicking the -Save- button located at the bottom of the page.

AdalineT: This would save lots of time from having to right the same comments over and over again.

GeorgeT: Looks real good. Some elements I would not have looked for

AndrewJM: Yes - but it is for a capstone assignment...

AndrewJM: And if you have to grade 140 papers (as many high school teachers do)...

AndrewJM: It is worth the time to create a detailed rubric...

JonR: this is true

AndrewJM: But they can be very simple.

AndrewJM: I'm about to grade an in class essay and my rubric...

AndrewJM: Is one Element with 10 or 12 checklist choices.

JonR: I like how you can edit it to your own needs

AndrewJM: I just choose the 2 or 3 that apply, click save, then move on to the next student.

GeorgeT: It would be applicable to all types of writing with any subject area

AndrewJM: George's point has turned out to be the most rewarding aspect to waypoint...

AndrewJM: On a daily basis I talk to middle school teachers, parochial teachers, business school undergraduate deans, and legal writing profs.

AndrewJM: It is very encouraging to really prove that good writing is good writing.

AdalineT: For a nonEnglish teacher to grade an essay, this would make the job easier.

AndrewJM: I am amazed at how close the instruction (and rubrics) match between school years.

AndrewJM: Adaline, many administrators (and English teachers) are hoping waypoint can help the other disciplines

AndrewJM: get more writing done...

AndrewJM: without a massive burden...

AndrewJM: Let me show you one other "bell and whistle"...

AndrewJM: Scroll back up to the top of the window...

GeorgeT: I have wanted to get my students to do a research paper on certain aspects of technology in my department. This would help in their technical portion of starting and keeping themselves on track

AndrewJM: And select "Manage" from the main menu.

AndrewJM: You will see a list of completed evaluations...

AndrewJM: One row per student.

AndrewJM: Click "View Data" in the menu at the bottom to see a breakdown of the evaluations...

AndrewJM: By Element.

AndrewJM: Teachers can print or email in bulk from this screen.

JamesPi left the room.

AdalineT: You get an overall picture of the class

AndrewJM: If you can see the list of student names in the left column...

AndrewJM: Click on "Bland, Gerald"

AndrewJM: Click on his name...

GeorgeT: allows getting a clear picture of the weaknesses that you would need to reinforce

AndrewJM: And you will 'jump' to his evaluation...

AndrewJM: Yes - and we are continually struck by the counterintuitive nature of this data...

AndrewJM: If you click the "h" button to the left of the first Element's name ("Thesis")...

JamesPi joined the room.

AndrewJM: You will get a complete history of comments for this particular student.

AndrewJM: In reverse chronological order...

AndrewJM: Let me begin to wrap up...

AndrewJM: And please interject any questions or comments...

AndrewJM: I know there is a lot to absorb...and it is difficult to juggle windows.

AndrewJM: You are welcome to come back to the demo site and experiment.

AndrewJM: You will get an emailed copy of this complete transcript (a most excellent feature of Tapped In!!!)

AndrewJM: Our live site URL is: www.gowaypoint.com

AndrewJM: Teachers can choose to buy a subscription for \$50/year...

AndrewJM: And we have a 60 day free trial.

AndrewJM: Schools and school districts can purchase site licenses...

AndrewJM: So teachers can share rubrics, histories of comments etc.

AndrewJM: Waypoint can also be aligned to state standards...

AndrewJM: We only have a few states up right now (PA, DE, NY, CA and a few others)...

AndrewJM: But they are easy to add with some inside knowledge!

AndrewJM: So we could quickly create a LA set of standards so the metrics match your NCLB language etc.

AndrewJM: The site license version of waypoint is \$3,000 plus \$2.50/student.

AndrewJM: So a high school of 1,000 students costs \$5,500 per year.

AndrewJM: Which includes 2 training sessions...

AndrewJM: I would be delighted to set you up with an account and help you experiment.

BJB2 wonders if anyone has any questions for Andrew?

JonR: Can you keep examples of previous work with the history or is just comments?

AndrewJM: Great question...

BJB2: thanks, Andrew, for leading this stimulating discussion!

AndrewJM: We chose not to recreate many features available in other products...

AndrewJM: For instance, waypoint is a great companion to Tapped In...

WillW: Great tool - thanks for the tour

AndrewJM: Thanks BJ and thanks everyone for participating so fully. This has been a lot of fun.

JonR: Have a great night!

AndrewJM: Don't hesitate to contact us if you want more info...

AndrewJM: Goodnight.

JonKr: Thanks Andrew

AdalineT: Thanks

GeorgeT: Thanks for the info

AndrewJM: My pleasure.

AndrewJM: I'll be in the lobby if you have any closing points...

