

Title of Session: Using Waypoint Online

Moderator: Andrew McCann

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Room: After School Online Room

BJB2: Welcome to the Waypoint discussion everyone

BJB2: before we begin, a reminder to new users to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: Andrew will be showing urls. When he does, if you have a pop up blocker, hold down the ctrl key as you click on the url

BJB2: Before we begin, can you all please briefly introduce yourself so Andrew has a sense of his participants?

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

BrentCu: I am a student at UMCP

AdenaR: I'm a student at the University of Maryland

DavidCamp: David Houston social studies 4-8 preservice

ScottGst4: I am a student pursuing a degree in elementary education.

RamiaF: University of Houston pre-service teacher

SandraS: I teach English in Alabama, university

GraceCh: I am a student at UMD

SeiHwaJ: I am a student at UMCP

BryanRS: I'm a student at the University of Maryland and work part-time in special ed policy area

MelissaIM: I am the Lead teacher at an Alternative High School

ScottGst4: UMCP

DanSh: lecturer at UMBC, student at UMCP

DavinaP: I am the instructor who has brought my class to explore more

AndrewJM: Welcome to all of you and thanks for stopping in...

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.

AndrewJM: Also, please let me know if I move too quickly (or slowly).

PamLB: U of Houston pre - service teacher

AndrewJM: You can message me privately by double-clicking on my name in the attendee list.

AndrewJM: Could I clarify what you mean by 'pre service'?

DavidCamp: not yet teaching

AndrewJM: Aha!

DavidCamp: student teaching etc...

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: Generally this discussion gets the conversation going towards general assessment issues...so feel free to introduce tangents...

AndrewJM: First let me try to sum up what waypoint is and is not.

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: My research into responding to student writing proves this out...

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 I had received on earlier work – I couldn't hold my students accountable for becoming active learners.

AndrewJM: Waypoint is designed to deal with these issues – not through artificial intelligence, but through automating some of the work a teacher does – whether the course is AP English, 6th grade social studies, or legal writing in law schools.

AndrewJM: The results, we feel, are improved feedback that takes less time to create, easy access to the history of comments for a student, and the ability to do longitudinal assessment of student writing.

AndrewJM: Students don't 'submit' their papers to waypoint; teachers collect papers (and other student work) the same way they always have.

AndrewJM: And, since many teachers use rubrics, the process of responding changes (potentially) very little.

AndrewJM: The rubric becomes an interactive webpage...

AndrewJM: That can be modified to suit any particular student.

AndrewJM: So teachers can 'pre write' a lot of the feedback they know they will give...

AndrewJM: And simply chose appropriate text from the interactive rubric - and modify it if necessary.

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.

AndrewJM: The URL is:

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

AndrewJM: If you can, scan through the text on the Overview...

AndrewJM: And then place your mouse on the first 4 orange circles at the bottom...

AndrewJM: You'll get a sense of the basic process.

AndrewJM: And I'll go in to more detail.

AndrewJM: It is worth pausing to ask how (and if) you use rubrics in your own practice.

AndrewJM: Perhaps some of you could comment on your experiences and preferences?

DavidCamp: I will be in the future

BryanRS: I only use rubrics in terms of official correspondence at my work, but I should use it more often in daily writing as it would clearly make a difference.

SandraS: I use rubrics on the major writing assignments for undergrad classes

AndrewJM: Thanks for sharing...

DanSh: As a hs science teacher, we really had to use them on writing, especially in prep. for state tests.

AndrewJM: Okay...let's take a closer look and hopefully we can continue to talk about your practice.

AndrewJM: Imagine you have a student's paper (in hardcopy) next to your computer.

AndrewJM: Click Evaluate in the menu.

AndrewJM: The menu of the URL I gave earlier...

AndrewJM: Again, roll your mouse over the numbers, from 1 to 10, and read through the text to get an idea.

AndrewJM: An idea of how waypoint works.

SeiHwaJ: Looks very efficient and time-saving

RamiaF: I agree

AndrewJM: That was the original and primary intention.

AndrewJM: Of course you have to grade with a computer...which is a major change for some people.

DanSh: What if papers are submitted online?

GraceCh: looks like a great way to track the progress of students as well

AndrewJM: If they are submitted online you simply open 2 windows...one for the paper and one for waypoint.

AndrewJM: If you have a wide enough monitor you can put them side by side.

DavidCamp: no difference in the process

DanSh: Makes sense...thanks.

PamLB: or two monitors at once

AndrewJM: Yes...I went to a 2 monitor setup.

AndrewJM: I love to copy and paste my student's writing into my response.

SusanR . o O (wonders what the learning curve for Waypoint is)

AndrewJM: Have a particular look at #8 and 9...

AndrewJM: Susan asked about the learning curve...

AndrewJM: We have many users who we've never talked to...they just find us on the web, signup, and mess around a bit to learn how to create the rubrics.

AndrewJM: But why don't we log in and you can see for yourselves?

AndrewJM: #8 and 9 illustrate the ability to pull-up (in a second) a history of comments for a student...

DavinaP: I only see up to 6?

AndrewJM: Davina, did you click 'Evaluate' in the menu at the top of the page?

AndrewJM: Then you'll see the 10...

SeiHwaJ: I think you are looking at overview Davina

AndrewJM: One question before we proceed: how prevalent is peer review in your practice (or education)?

AndrewJM: I'll give everyone a moment to read and think...

DanSh: It really isn't present, except in educational research

BryanRS: There is a decent amount of peer review and it is mostly for research grants.

AndrewJM: I should have been more specific...

AndrewJM: I meant peer review between students - when student A reads student B's work...

AndrewJM: And writes or otherwise responds to it.

GraceCh: In English 101 at UMCP there is usually a peer review session for each paper

AndrewJM: Thanks Grace.

BryanRS: I only encountered peer review in my writing classes at Maryland.

AdenaR: Also in junior English

DanSh: none observed in his science nor in current non-majors science course.

AndrewJM: I ask about peer review because teachers can make the structure you see...

GraceCh: Any advice on how to conduct efficient peer reviews-draft workshops receive a lot of complaints from students for one reason or another.

AndrewJM: available to students to review each other's work.

BrentCu: Peer review is so beneficial to students. I think it gives students a way to learn different styles of writing instead of just reading their own

AndrewJM: I think peer review can be wonderful...but there are many process issues.

BryanRS: Ahh, I see. Do most teachers using waypoint make this available?

AndrewJM: Like students who don't come to class with drafts...or do very poor jobs responding to their peers.

AndrewJM: Bryan...

AndrewJM: Once you have created a rubric for an assignment it is very easy to modify it slightly and have students log in and review each others' work.

AndrewJM: The changes we are seeing (Drexel, k12 school districts) using waypoint for peer review are immense.

AndrewJM: Students find it easier to be critical...

AndrewJM: And they write much more to respond to the different criteria defined by the teacher.

AndrewJM: They feel that they understand the assignment more clearly.

AndrewJM: And can use waypoint to self-assess.

AndrewJM: Or get help from a parent or tutor.

DavidCamp: I think it is easier for them to say what they mean when the phrasing is provided

BryanRS: Makes sense considering the traditional read your partners paper always seems to lack the necessary guidelines

AndrewJM: Right...and they internalize the language of response through repeating the process a few times.

AndrewJM: Let's log in and kick the tires.

AndrewJM: I'll give you a URL to our demo site. All the data is 'fake' and you can change/delete/type anything you want.

AndrewJM: A note about browsers:

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

AndrewJM: Safari is fine on the Mac if you have OS X 10.3.

AndrewJM: IE for the Mac should work but again you need the latest version.

PamLB: thanks for the heads up on browsers

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

AndrewJM: The demo site URL is:

AndrewJM: www.gowaypoint.com/wpdemo

AndrewJM: The login info (username/password) is listed right above the login area.

AndrewJM: submetguest

AndrewJM: guest2003

AndrewJM: Go ahead and login if you can...

BrentCu: I'm in

AndrewJM: You'll see a menu across the top of your screen.

RamiaF: got it

AndrewJM: Select EVALUATE.

BryanRS: I'm in

AndrewJM: Choose "2/15/05 (22) Short Story Assignment" from the Assignments drop down.

AndrewJM: Scroll down until you find a student name WITHOUT a "(1)" in front of it...

AndrewJM: This is an assignment to evaluate a freshman level literature analysis paper.

AndrewJM: The rubric is complex.

AndrewJM: Rubrics can have 1 criteria or 50.

AndrewJM: Each criteria (Thesis, Quality of Counterargument) has a series of prewritten choices below it.

AndrewJM: Select one of the options under 'Thesis'

AndrewJM: You should get a popup window that allows you to edit the prewritten text.

AndrewJM: Notice that there are 3 text boxes...

AndrewJM: The rubric includes not just an Observation (the chosen text) but an optional advice and reference box.

AndrewJM: Click "Update Element" after perhaps typing some comments into the text box.

AndrewJM: If you scroll down the page until you get to 9th criteria (Grammar Checklist) I'll show you one other facet to this approach.

AndrewJM: Any number of Observations can be chosen in the Grammar Checklist.

AndrewJM: Check the 7th Observation ("Comma splices")...

AndrewJM: Click "Update Element" on the resulting window.

AndrewJM: This is the example that always gets high school English teachers...

AndrewJM: They can give a detailed example of a recurring issue.

AndrewJM: Impossible to do if you are handwriting comments.

AndrewJM: This page can get overwhelming very quickly, so I won't burden you with additional features.

AndrewJM: I think you can imagine that you save the evaluation and can email or print a response to the student.

AndrewJM: These interactive rubrics can be shared.

AndrewJM: So if a history teacher in your school creates some great rubrics they could share them with you...

BryanRS: Wish my professors used this when I took eng101. It also would've helped me decode what I always thought was cryptic handwriting from them.

AndrewJM: Or a science rubric for evaluating lab reports.

PamLB: lol Bryan ... I know what you mean

AndrewJM: The simple shift to typed comments has an immense impact on students.

AndrewJM: I thought it would wear off after a while...but it hasn't yet.

AndrewJM: And I feel really proud of my feedback...

AndrewJM: As you might have guessed waypoint is a commercial product.

AndrewJM: So let me close with some details (and also take any other questions).

AndrewJM: Individual instructors can use waypoint for free...

AndrewJM: School districts and universities can purchase site licenses.

AndrewJM: With a site license all students and instructors are loaded into waypoint...

AndrewJM: Rubrics can be shared...

AndrewJM: Feedback for students can be stored in a central place...

AndrewJM: And performance can be quantified - for individual students and cohorts of students.

AndrewJM: You can always return to our demo site to play around.

AndrewJM: Or visit www.gowaypoint.com to sign up.

AndrewJM: I would be very curious in your thoughts about waypoint's applicability to the schools you attend and teach in...

DavidCamp: Thanks Andrew - it looks great. I'll drop you a line after I get a classroom.

PamLB: I would imagine it would work great in any school regardless of grade level

AdenaR: I think it will be very helpful for peer review for standard English classes- benchmarks, freshman, junior, etc...

DanSh: I currently get papers from 200 students and grade them online. This might help make it more efficient and provide better feedback.

AndrewJM: Dan, we should talk!

AndrewJM: That is an immense load.

AndrewJM: Do you insert comments into word documents?

DanSh: They're relatively short (3pages) and I have them spread out according to the choice of topics, but I use the red ink feature in word to comment.

AndrewJM: Gotcha.

BryanRS: I have to take off, but certainly looks interesting. Also sent link over to my mother who works for natl institute for literacy since I think this may be a resource that they ought to consider advising, particularly in her focus of kids with ld. Thanks again, have a great evening.

AndrewJM: Our contact info is on our website.

AndrewJM: Thanks very much for attending this ASO session. It has been my pleasure.

DanSh: Thanks. I'll definitely be looking into this more. Goodnight all!

ScottGst4: thanks for a great tutorial

BJB2: Thanks, Andrew

RamiaF: thank you, bye

AndrewJM: Goodnight!

SusanR: Thanks Andrew. I will pass this on to our tech integration team

AndrewJM: Thanks much.

PamLB: Thanks Andrew! Have a great evening!