

Podcasting in the Chemistry Classroom



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How I use podcasting

- Replaces “lecture/discussion” in Chemistry 1
 - Use PowerPoint annotating tool
 - Anything I can show on my computer screen can be included in podcast (animation, video, etc.)
- Demo lab techniques
 - Video from camcorder
- AP Chem snow days

Why I podcast

- Changes classroom dynamic – Student centered
- Students free to work at own pace
- Content available when students ready to listen—anytime, anywhere
- Students can put me on pause, rewind
- Students can listen as many times as needed

Why I podcast

- Students seem to get more out of podcast than during full class lecture
- Student absences
- My absences – students are watching podcast as I speak

How/When Students Watch Podcasts



How/When Students Watch Podcasts

- In class on iTouchs (from ACS/Hach grant)
- In class on their personal media players
- Anywhere they have Internet access (school, home, library)
- Students with no Internet access or dial-up: at home on computer from flash drive/CD

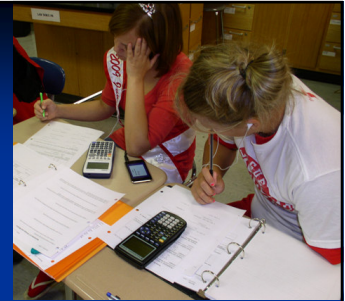
Getting Started

- Screencasting software
 - Lots of commercial software & freeware
 - Camtasia Studio – full editing capability, generates multiple formats, noise reduction, lots of features
- Microphone
- Pen/tablet, Tablet PC



Additional Considerations

- File formats – I make two versions
 - iPod compatible (M4V) and PC (wmv)
- File sizes - ~1 MB per minute (my target 15-30 mins)
 - Downloading speed at students' houses
 - Attention spans
- Recording time
- Training students to watch podcasts effectively
- Security, syncing, charging, cleaning, headsets



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