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

BJB2: April is here for your discussion, Andrew

AndrewJM: Great - thanks BJB.

BJB2 . o O (let's wait a minute to see if anyone else is around)

AprilLJ: I'm not familiar with the program but the blurb sound interesting

AndrewJM: I appreciate you taking some time to have a look!

AndrewJM: Have you been a TI member for long?

BJB2: it's very cool, April! Andrew does an excellent job of explaining how it works

AndrewJM: Aw shucks.

BJB2: before Andrew gets started, April, go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: then how about if we do introductions? Please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

AprilLJ: ok I'm detached

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

AndrewJM: I teach English at Drexel University in Philadelphia and am the developer of waypoint...

AprilLJ: I teach language arts at a continuation high school in southern cal

AndrewJM: I haven't heard that term - 'continuation'...

AprilLJ: "second chance"

AprilLJ: have you heard of that?

AndrewJM: Ah...makes sense.

AndrewJM: BJ, maybe this is another strength to TI...

BJB2 listens

AprilLJ: it's the school students go when they get kicked out of their other schools

AndrewJM: It would probably be weird to be in a physical room with one other person...

BJB2: April, there is an Alternative Ed group here

AndrewJM: But maybe chat makes it easier.

AndrewJM: April, I am delighted to give you an overview of waypoint...

AprilLJ: thanks

BJB2 nods to Andrew. Quite a few alternative ed classes are held online

AndrewJM: Since this is a small (!) session, it would help me to know more about your teaching situation.

AndrewJM: How many students do you have - and in how many preparations (or different classes)?

AprilLJ: I teach 6 classes but only 2 preps. I am in charge of the eld program and language arts11. The class size is about 25-30 on a good attendance day

AndrewJM: Gotcha.

AndrewJM: So we're talking 140+ students plus administrative duties?

AndrewJM: One more question: what kind of technology (access to Internet and computers) do you have in your school?

AndrewJM: This will help guide my presentation of waypoint as a productivity tool for you and perhaps your fellow teachers.

AprilLJ: yep

AprilLJ: none

AndrewJM: Wow, that's rough.

AprilLJ: i have one ancient computer

AprilLJ: and an overhead projector

AndrewJM: I see all kinds of situations in my travels through high schools that are clients of ours...from massive flat screen smartboards to 5 year old computers with slow Internet...

AndrewJM: Okay, let me introduce you to waypoint.

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

AndrewJM: Waypoint is a tool for creating interactive rubrics – which are used to assess and respond to student work.

AndrewJM: Waypoint is a powerful tool for school districts...

AndrewJM: – we have entire school districts, universities, and law schools as site license customers –

AndrewJM: ...but individual teachers can use most of waypoint's features for $50 per year.

AndrewJM: Tapped In has been gracious enough to help us spread the word about waypoint and establish a continuing/professional development presence.

AndrewJM: You don't need technology at school to use waypoint provided you have it at home or elsewhere.

AndrewJM: Waypoint works through a standard web browser and works well over a dial up connection.

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: Waypoint is designed to deal with these issues – not through artificial intelligence...

AndrewJM: ...but through automating some of the work a teacher does

AndrewJM: – 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.

AprilLJ: sounds nice

AndrewJM: Not all of these issues may appeal to you...although as a teacher and an administrator you're covering all the bases...

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

BirdieR joined the room.

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.

AprilLJ: Hey birdie

BJB2: Hi, Birdie. Are you here for the Waypoint Online discussion?

AprilLJ: glad you found us

BirdieR: Yes I am here for the discussion

AndrewJM: Hi Birdie...

AprilLJ: what am I clicking on?

AndrewJM: I didn't put the URL up yet...

AprilLJ: oh

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

BJB2: hold down your ctrl key as you clcik

BJB2 . o O (overrides pop up blockers)

AndrewJM: Thanks BJ.

AndrewJM: Birdie, the numbered circles at the bottom change the image...

AndrewJM: If you roll from 1 to 2 to 3 to 4 you'll get a sense of how interactive waypoint rubrics work...

AprilLJ: I like number 3

AndrewJM: What you are seeing in #3 is completely customized...

AndrewJM: A teacher can (relatively) quickly create their own rubrics...

AndrewJM: Or use rubrics from our public library.

AndrewJM: We can look at the evaluate process in more detail - and you'll see how waypoint avoids being just a "canned text" program...

BJB2: welcome, Margaret

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

BJB2: Margaret, we're looking at http://docs.subjectivemetrics.com/home/k-12/demo/k12_demo_home.htm

AndrewJM: (You'll notice that students don't "submit" their papers to waypoint).

AndrewJM: Thanks again BJ!

AndrewJM: Click 'Evaluate' in the menu just above the horizontal line on the webpage you brought up.

AndrewJM: Now you'll see 10 circles across the bottom.

BirdieR: the rubic is amazing

AndrewJM: Same idea - you can roll your mouse over a number to see a step in the process.

AndrewJM: Which rubric, Birdie?

MargaretPP: What a useful tool to use, especially with standard-based grading.

AprilLJ: Are you talking about the the customized ones from the original popup birdie?

AndrewJM: Well, as you'll see every choice a teacher makes (notice that the criteria are defined by the teacher)...

AndrewJM: results in a "data point"...

BirdieR: the customized

AndrewJM: And waypoint aligns with California (and other states) metric systems...

AndrewJM: So the data all rolls up to state terminology.

AprilLJ: I like that I hate having to use boring impersonal rubrics

MargaretPP: Are any of you using this now?

AndrewJM: Let's log in and you can test drive waypoint...

AprilLJ: No we just heard about it in our class, right Birdie?

BirdieR: yes

AndrewJM: At this point I lose total control of what you see...and like any website waypoint depends somewhat on your browser setup etc.

AndrewJM: We'll log in to our demo site - which is filled with 'fake' data and students so you can experiment.

AndrewJM: The demo site URL is:

AndrewJM: www.gowaypoint.com/wpdemo

AndrewJM: The login username and password is actually displayed on the page...

AndrewJM: You can come back any time you like to have a look.

AndrewJM: So enter "submetguest" as the username

AndrewJM: And guest2003 as the password.

AprilLJ: where can I find the info to log in?

AndrewJM: It's written just above the login area at the top of the screen.

AprilLJ: nevermind I found it

AndrewJM: We'll pause and make sure everyone gets in okay.

AprilLJ: It's at the top of the page

AndrewJM: You should see a "Welcome to waypoint!" message and a series of radio buttons across the top of your screen.

AndrewJM: Anyone need any help?

BirdieR: I'm not getting the site

AndrewJM: www.gowaypoint.com/wpdemo

AndrewJM: Try holding down CTRL when you click (in case you have a popup blocker on).

AprilLJ: I'm in too

BirdieR: Hey, it worked, thanks Andrew

AndrewJM: Select "Evaluate" from the menu across the top of the screen.

AndrewJM: Cool.

AndrewJM: Your screen should update to show an "Assignments" and "Students" drop down.

MargaretPP: Thanks, I'll work on it for a while

AprilLJ: ok

AndrewJM: Choose "2/15/05 (24) Short Story Assignment" from the Assignments drop down.

AndrewJM: Margaret, feel free to ask a question if we get a little out of sync.

AprilLJ: I'm there now what

AndrewJM: The (24) means there are 24 evaluations...24 students have been graded...

AndrewJM: After choosing an assignment...

AprilLJ: ok

AndrewJM: Choose a student...

MargaretPP: Thanks, this is my first time on Tapped In, so I'm a little slow

AndrewJM: Scroll down until you find a row WITHOUT a (1).

AndrewJM: NO PROBLEM!

AprilLJ: Louis berry

AndrewJM: This is definitely beyond the normal juggling act.

AndrewJM: Depending on which name you chose...

AndrewJM: You'll either get a blank rubric (meaning nothing is filled in).

AndrewJM: Or one that has been completed.

AndrewJM: Since we're all teaching a lot of students...

AndrewJM: I'll ask you to uncheck the "Element Editing" checkbox...

AndrewJM: It appears just above the first Criteria (Thesis) and right of center.

AndrewJM: This is a very elaborate rubric...

AndrewJM: Used for high school or college literature essays.

AndrewJM: But waypoint rubrics can have 1 criteria or 50 - doesn't matter.

AndrewJM: I have a lot of rubrics that are essentially long checklists...more on that in a moment.

AndrewJM: Each criteria has a series of choices.

AndrewJM: Click one...

AprilLJ: I like it for my students but Birdie teaches 3rd grade.

AndrewJM: Ha!

AndrewJM: Yes, 3rd grade is a little bit different.

BirdieR: how can 3rd graders use it

AndrewJM: Although my daughter (pre-K) has received some pretty formal assessments.

AndrewJM: The criteria in 3rd grade would be different...socialization...

BirdieR: how do the teachers do that?

AndrewJM: But waypoint is used by middle-school through college...

AndrewJM: Depending on the student you chose...

AndrewJM: You can click the 'h' button just to the left of a criteria name...

AndrewJM: And get a popup window with a history of comments for that student.

AndrewJM: If you scroll down the window to the 9th criteria (grammar checklist)...

HoraceR joined the room.

AndrewJM: You'll see that the rubric structure is extended beyond the normal paper version.

AprilLJ: yep

AndrewJM: You can check as many choices as you want under grammar.

AndrewJM: And many of them include optional "Advice" and "Reference" text.

AndrewJM: So the teacher can prewrite feedback they KNOW they will give...

AndrewJM: And then simply choose it as necessary.

AndrewJM: High school English teachers love the grammar element...(typically).

AndrewJM: And it is in the public library - so you don't have to recreate the wheel but can use what is already there (or modify it).

AprilLJ: oh yeah. especially for the eld students

AndrewJM: Waypoint is very popular with ESL teachers also...

AndrewJM: You can save the evaluation and then print or email it to the student.

BirdieR: well I have to go but thank you for the demonstration

HoraceR: Sorry I'm late, but how do teachers access Waypoint?

AndrewJM: You can always access your comments...

AndrewJM: Thanks very much Birdie!

AndrewJM: High Horace.

HoraceR: Hi Andrew

AndrewJM: Horace, the main site is www.gowaypoint.com

BirdieR: bye

AndrewJM: You sign up (60 day free trial)...

AndrewJM: And begin creating rubrics...

AndrewJM: For individual teachers waypoint is $50 per year...which many teachers feel they earn back after the first set of papers.

JacquelyJM left the room.

AndrewJM: Typically teachers save 20% or more (depending on the assignment and complexity).

AndrewJM: And the feedback to students can be much more fulsome...

AndrewJM: Horace...

AndrewJM: we're using the demo site right now.

AndrewJM: www.gowaypoint.com/wpdemo

AndrewJM: The login info is above the login area...

AndrewJM: Select 'Evaluate' in the main menu that stretches across the top of the screen...

AndrewJM: For those of you who are logged in already...

AndrewJM: Scroll back to the top of the page and click "Manage" in the main menu.

AndrewJM: Just click "okay" to any warning messages...

AndrewJM: Horace, we chose the 2/15/05 (24) Short Story Assignment from the assignments drop down.

AndrewJM: And a student WITHOUT a (1) in front of their name.

AndrewJM: For everyone else...

AndrewJM: Manage shows you all the evaluations for a particular rubric.

AndrewJM: You can sort by date, student, grade etc.

AprilLJ: well I am going to go play with it now but thank you for your time.

AndrewJM: Note that the grade is not calculated by waypoint...

AprilLJ: bye bye

AndrewJM: Thanks April.

AprilLJ left the room (signed off).

AndrewJM: Can I help anyone catch up to where we are?

HoraceR: Thanks Andrew

AndrewJM: Or perhaps we should take some questions?

AndrewJM: The rubrics that teachers create are shared through a public library.

AndrewJM: Site license customers can share rubrics amongst groups of teachers - great for vertical teaming etc.

HoraceR left the room (signed off).

AndrewJM: Well...that was a bit madcap...

AndrewJM: So maybe we'll finish the discussion...

AndrewJM: Goodnight BJ...thanks again.

BJB2: go ahead and bring to closure, Andrew....if you want add anything to the transcript

AndrewJM: The live website is www.gowaypoint.com.

AndrewJM: I can be reached at ajmccann@subjectivemetrics.com.

AndrewJM: Take care!

BJB2: thanks!