

Assignment feedback via podcast

Pilot project on the value or
otherwise of audio feedback

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Methodology

- 1/4 (22) of year 2 cohort of 99 students received feedback via podcast on 1 assignment
- Podcast was emailed to students at the time their essay was available for collection
- Questionnaire was then given to those students who took part in the study
- Questionnaire asked students to indicate the extent to which they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed with statements
- The questionnaire also allowed students to comment on the advantages/disadvantages of receiving feedback via podcast

Advantages of receiving feedback via podcast

- More feedback
 - 91% of students agreed/strongly agreed that they received more feedback from a podcast than when feedback is written
- Greater depth and detail
 - 100% felt that the feedback they received via podcast provided greater depth than written feedback
 - ‘Able to receive more and more specific feedback’
 - ‘Detailed feedback’

Better understanding ?

- 66% strongly agreed/agreed that feedback via podcast gave them a better understanding of the strengths/limitations of their work
- ‘Helped me to see and understand, more clearly (than written feedback) my limitations and how I can improve’
- ‘A lot more detail than written feedback. I now understand where I go wrong when referencing’
- ‘Easy to understand the important parts with the emphasis on voice’

No problems with reading handwriting

- ‘Explanations (feedback) in writing can be hard to decipher and may not help you improve as much’
- ‘It also means that it is not difficult to read a lecturer’s handwriting’
- ‘Not difficult to read a lecturer’s handwriting’
- ‘There is no issue of not being able to read/understand someone’s handwriting’
- ‘Easier to understand (than written feedback) especially as some handwriting is pretty unreadable’

Ease of access to podcast feedback

- ‘Convenient to access via iTunes’
- ‘I can put it on my iPod and keep it forever and listen to it whilst writing notes of my own’
- ‘Easy to access and re-access as there is no need to dig out paperwork’
- ‘It allows you to listen to feedback whilst looking directly at the area of work the feedback is being given on’
- ‘Can listen to it ‘on the go’ on your iPod/iPhone’

- Despite students' positive perceptions of the advantages of receiving feedback via podcast 58% still undecided/disagree as to whether they want all assignment via podcast
- 75% of students wanted mixture of written/podcast feedback
- Podcast feedback for
 - 'group work so feedback can be more personal rather than general'
 - 'teaching scenario assignments to receive 'real time' feedback'.

Nappy changing avoidance procedures!!

- Written feedback word count for 43 essays marked by myself.
- Average number of words used on the assignment return form was 70.
- Different module, feedback was given via audio cast.
- Average length of feedback (audio) was 3 minutes 25 seconds which equates to 525 words.
- <http://www.internetvoicetalent.com/30-and-60-second-spot-word-count-guidelines-for-internet-audio-ads/>

Exemplars

- Formative audio cast PA 332 (4mins in total)
- Summative audio cast EX313 (3mins 40 secs total)
- Vocational feedback 'in field'. (9 mins total)