eLearning Presentation
By Elizabeth Tomzik

Outline of Presentation

- About this presentation
- Why I chose PowerPoint
- Types of mediums
- PowerPoint and media richness
- PowerPoint and social learning
- Making PowerPoint ADA compliant

About This Presentation

1. Produced with PowerPoint, Microsoft Office 2007

2. Simple white background with black text

3. PowerPoint presentations are graphic slide shows, but can also be text based.

4. A PDF and text version of this PowerPoint are also available.

Why PowerPoint?

The reasons are endless!

1. Easy to format for web delivery
2. Easy to create text documents, including PDF's and Word documents
3. Can be as simple or complicated in design
4. User friendly
5. Compatible with most users Operating Systems

Types of Mediums

All mediums are either synchronous or asynchronous.

1. Synchronous – Students and instructors engage the elearning environment at the same time, but not necessarily from the same site. Synchronous mediums are useful for increasing motivation and engagement. It also can assist with providing social presence. Examples of a synchronous medium would be TalkShoe or Skype.

2. Asynchronous – Students and instructors engage the elearning environment but not at the same time, nor from the same site. Asynchronous mediums are useful for students to engage in eLearning at their preferred time and place. PowerPoint presentations are asynchronous, as they can be uploaded to an LMS (learning management system) and can be accessed at varying times and sites.

PowerPoint and Media Richness

Media richness is useful theory for understanding how a certain media would work in a given learning situation Media richness is determined by the following criteria:

1. Ability to give instant feedback

   - PowerPoint does not have an option to provide instant feedback

2. The capacity to transmit cues such as facial expression, body language and tone of voice

   - Facial cues and tone of voice can be communicated with a speech to text option
   - Facial cues, tone of voice and body language can be communicated with either audio or video

3. The ability to use natural language

   - Natural language can be used in text

4. How the media is able to provide personal focus

   - PowerPoint is meant for a general audience. It does not allow personal focus, though it does allow for outline and text to audio options

PowerPoint and Media Richness

Media richness is useful theory for understanding how a certain media would work in a given learning situation.

As a rule:

   1. The more ambiguous the task, the richer the media should be

For example:

   Problem Solving Task – Best served by a media rich medium

   Directive Task – Lean of rich media which is straight to the point.

With all of these factors in mind, PowerPoint can be placed on a spectrum of media richness. Depending on the task, PowerPoint can be tailored to be either more media rich or more lean whether the task is problem solving or directive.

PowerPoint and Social Presence

Social Presence is the distinctiveness of a medium that is seeming and reported students in learning environment.

Social presence is, therefore, determined by the medium.

In conclusion, social present explains the ability of the medium to transmit realness of a learning situation.

Social Presence – How it impacts students

In Dr. Newberry's work, the following was reported:

1. If a student expects a high level of social presence in the course, they tend to be more satisfied when they experience high levels of social presence.

2. If a student expects a high level of social presence in a course, and they do not received high levels of social presence, they tend to be more dissatisfied.

3. If a student doesn't expect high levels of interaction, they do not report a decrease in satisfaction when they are in a situation with low social presence.

4. If a student doesn't expect high levels of interaction, they do not report an increase in satisfaction when they are involved in interactions with a high social presence.

With these factors in mind, PowerPoint is best suited for students who have low levels of expectations of social presence.

ADA Compliance and PowerPoint

All learning mediums must be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

The American Disabilites Act requires that any learning institution that receives government funding has classes that are accessible for those with disabilities.

A course must developed within these guidelines, regardless of whether there is a student with disabilities in the course.

All materials related to a course must be accessible.

I find that the best way to avoid an ADA compliance issues is to use a checklist to be certain that their course is compliant.

ADA Checklist

The following is a checklist that I developed for a **previous assignment**. It has proved the most useful for maintaining ADA compliance when using PowerPoint as an eLearning tool.

You can find the guidelines that I used to develop the checklist **here**.

If you are able to answer "Yes" to all of the following questions, the PowerPoint presentation is ADA compliant.

Continue to the next page for the ADA checklist.

ADA Checklist

Is a text version of all video/audio available?
Are indicators in plain text (no color)?
Are markup sheets used correctly?
Is the language easy to understand?
Did the tables publish correctly?
Did all the page over all publish as intended?
Can the user control time-sensitive content?
Can the user access all outside links?
Can the course be used independent of a certain devices?
Is there a clear context of the information provided?
Is an orientation to the information provided?
Can the user easily navigate through the pages?
Are there indicators for navigation?
Are all documents clear and simple?

In Conclusion

PowerPoint is useful for eLearning because it allows for asynchonous communication.

PowerPoint is typically provides low levels of social presence.

PowerPoint can be as media rich or as media lean as an instructor chooses.

PowerPoint can be easily tailored to comply with ADA compliance standards.