

Professional Development

Overview

A professional development opportunity in which teachers are taught the value of using Quizlet, or another digital quizzing tool to provide students with immediate feedback when introducing new vocabulary terms. The professional development opportunity would be delivered as a “flipped learning” exercise: teachers would be expected to read through an online presentation and create a Quizlet, then introduce their ‘Quizlet Quiz’ to colleagues during a department meeting. The duration of this professional learning opportunity would vary depending upon the given teacher’s technological literacy and comfort using digital tools, but the average time of engagement would likely fall between 30 and 60 minutes.

Learning Outcomes

A meta-analysis of studies concerning the value of formative feedback in the classroom suggests that student learning outcomes improve when given immediate feedback on lower level learning tasks and delayed feedback on higher level learning tasks (Shute 2007). Teachers who participate in this professional learning opportunity would be better equipped to scaffold student acquisition of language. Rote memorization is a lower level learning task and a digital quizzing tool, like Quizlet, can provide students with immediate feedback on formative vocabulary quizzes.

Members of an organization are more likely to implement an innovation if there is a social pressure to do so and if members share the fate of the organization (Frank, Zhao, Gorman 2004). Teachers who participate in this professional learning opportunity will feel a social pressure to explore Quizlet, or another digital quizzing tool, because of the expectation that they will be sharing a ‘Quizlet Quiz’ with colleagues during a department meeting. In many places of employment, team members who do not create required materials prior to a deadline are viewed as apathetic or incompetent, which lowers their social capital. Teachers who do not participate in this learning opportunity will less equipped with tools that may enhance student language acquisition, which is a detriment to any school that wishes to increase student literacy or boost standardized testing scores.

Enduring value of professional development opportunity, grounded in SAMR

The professional development opportunity will better equip teachers to scaffold student language acquisition by providing immediate feedback on formative vocabulary quizzes through Quizlet, or another digital quizzing tool. Quizlet serves as a direct **substitution** for paper and pencil vocabulary quizzes, which gauge student ability to recall the definitions of teacher selected terms (measure of rote memorization). Quizlet **augments** student experience of a formative vocabulary quiz because the digital tool provides immediate feedback, a functional improvement on the delayed feedback given on paper and pencil quizzes and a more efficient use of classroom time. Using Quizlet would allow teachers to **modify** their (re)teaching practices in response to the immediate feedback students receive on their vocabulary quiz because Quizlet also generates flashcards, which are useful when facilitating informal vocabulary quizzes orally. Quizlet also reads words aloud using a text-to-speech plugin, providing a new voice to lead choral response exercises. Quizlet **redefines** formative vocabulary quizzes because teachers who input a list of terms and definitions into the digital tool generating a term-to-definition matching game, flashcards, and a quiz that provides immediate feedback. All of

these materials are then shared online and are free for anyone to access, potentially serving as a resource for teaching colleagues or students who may wish to access the materials outside of the classroom.

Description of Resources

This professional learning opportunity will be delivered as a “flipped learning” exercise, meaning that teachers will be expected to access the resources on their own time and to come prepared to demonstrate an expertise during an in-person meeting. To this end, an instructional coach would design an online presentation that details the benefits of implementing Quizlet (or another digital quizzing tool) in the classroom.

An example of a slideshow that explores the benefits of using Quizlet in the classroom may be found here. This example emphasizes the value of Quizlet as a vehicle to teach students 21st century study skills, whereas the presentation designed for this professional learning opportunity would emphasize the impact of immediate feedback on lower level learning tasks improve student learning outcomes and the implications for language acquisition

References

Frank, K. A., Zhao, Y., & Borman, K. (2004). Social capital and the diffusion of innovations within organizations: The case of computer technology in schools. *Sociology of Education*, 77(2), 148-171.

Shute, V. (2008). Focus on Formative Feedback. *Review of Educational Research*, 78(1), 153-189.

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