

This issue's tips come from Kusum Knapczyk, Hindi Lecturer at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and the 2022 recipient of the ACTFL/CENGAGE/IALLT Postsecondary Award for Excellence in World Language Instruction Using Technology.



What new technology tools do you recommend—and how do you use them in your classroom?

During the pandemic, educators became more creative and innovative in their teaching pedagogy. We not only connected with the world virtually, we also took our classes to the next level. Online international conferences and networking, along with guest experts talking to students in the classroom using Zoom and other technologies, became the norm. We all took big leaps that will inform our approach to teaching for years. Here are a few technology tools that continue to enhance my teaching.



Microsoft OneNote

Microsoft OneNote was a lifesaver for me during the pandemic, allowing me to correct student work virtually. Although my university is back to in-person classes, I continue to prefer being paperless. Since OneNote is part of Office 365, my students don't need to sign up for it; they simply use their university email login.

OneNote creates an individual notebook for each student, and students can't see each other's work. Teachers and students can both create subsections in

the notebook to categorize assignments such as homework, classwork, tests, etc. Importantly, there are no limits on uploads to OneNote.

Students can save notes, slides, and pictures for future use, see their assignments from each semester, and check their progress. Assignment files are neatly organized, making them easy to find. You can grade notebooks using an iPad or connect with a tablet and pen. Students can also create their own separate notebooks for personal use.



PlayPosit (PP) allows you to meld listening content, tasks, and assessment, making it easy to choose and edit a clip and embed exercises within a video. Tasks can be tailored for both guided and open-ended responses, from true/false questions to reflections on aspects of culture; you can ask free response, multiple-choice, and fill-in-the-blank questions, host a discussion forum, and use polling surveys.

PP is useful for helping students learn expressions and phrases. The video pauses automatically to allow students to complete an exercise and requires them to redo the exercise until they answer correctly. Students receive immediate feedback on the accuracy of their comprehension with guided tasks, and you can guide and control their progression through an activity based on this built-in formative assessment. Grading and feedback also occur automatically as students progress through the assignments. These functions are asynchronous, making them ideal for the flipped classroom. There is an annual fee for this tool, but it is worth trying.



VoiceThread VOICETHREAD

I have been using **VoiceThread** (VT) three to four times a week for more than eight years. I have my students practice and record dialogues for reading practices using VT because this allows me to give them feedback on their pronunciation. I also use VT for oral presentations, reading dialogues, and role-play activities. Teacher-to-student and student-to-student interactions are both possible, as are task-based progressions through a sequence of activities.

In VT, each thread is separate, so students can listen and respond to each other's comments. I find VT an excellent platform for students to perform oral presentations and discussions with partners. I have students read, write, listen and speak about the theme of the week in class before asking them to record oral presentations on VT. Make the VT recordings time-bound, opening and closing at specific times, and attach a rubric to each assignment so that students have clear instructions on how to complete the task. Students can record audio and video using either their phones or by recording to VT directly.

VT lends itself to the flipped classroom model because tasks are completed by students asynchronously. VT integrates seamlessly with most Learning Management Systems (LMS).

There are seemingly endless new tools and technology available to solve your teaching problems. As Buddhist philosophy advises: take the middle path. Don't overwhelm yourself or your students with technology—use it wisely.