A man with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, sitting at a desk with a laptop. He has a distressed expression, with wide, staring eyes and a slightly open mouth showing his teeth. His right hand is pressed against his forehead, suggesting frustration or stress. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, with a slight red tint on the right side of the image.

HELP! I'm Teaching Online Now!

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Table of Contents

Tips for effective teaching in a webinar	4
Logitech Spotlight, ScreenPointer, PointerFocus	5
Mentimeter	6
WooClap	7
Gimkit	8
Anchor	9
Screencast-O-Matic (Mac or PC)	10
Screencastify	12
CloudApp	13
Explain Everything	14
Quizizz	15
EDpuzzle	16
VoiceThread	17
FlipGrid	18

Online Teaching

Tips for effective teaching in a webinar

1. Recognise that some students prefer to learn online. Many others like it just as much as learning in a classroom. There is also ample evidence that if done well, teaching can be as effective online as in a classroom for many subjects. Students will be more positive about the current mode of teaching if you project enthusiasm about the opportunities of learning online..
2. Recognise that in a webinar you are the size of a postage stamp. You have less physical presence. So you need to make sure that (a) you project more energy than normal and (b) you make your lessons more engaging.
3. Consider your lighting. Don't sit with your back to a window or you will look like a government whistle-blower in the witness protection program.
4. Think about what is behind you. You don't need a professional studio (students expect to see you at home), but you don't want a cluttered, distracting background. An empty room or plain wall is ideal.
5. Put your laptop on a pile of books or something so that the camera is about level with your nose. That way, the camera won't be looking up your nostrils (it is also a more complimentary angle for you ;)
6. Avoid text-heavy slides. They look boring and are a real turn-off for most students. If you have lots of text for your students to read, make a handout and give it to them as a handout. There are of course exceptions to this. For example if you are teaching language! If you know why you are breaking the rule for a reason - and you can explain that reason to yourself, that's fine!
7. Images on slides are great - especially if they are so big that they don't fit on the slide. This creates a "closure" effect, where your students' minds have to imagine the rest of the missing image. In their imagination the image will be more vivid and dynamic than if you were to show it.
8. Recognise that students at home are surrounded by distractions. Many of them are half-listening to you, whilst playing a game, chatting to friends on social media, watching TV or doing one of dozens of other things. For this reason, it's important that the screen keeps changing regularly. That will help to keep your students watching the screen.
9. Instead of making one slide with six bullet-points. My advice is to make six slides, each with one bullet point (and a different interesting picture).
10. Great images can be downloaded for free (financially and also copyright free) from
 - www.unsplash.com
 - www.morguefile.com
 - www.pixabay.com
 - www.pexels.com
 - www.pxhere.com

Pointing at the screen

Logitech Spotlight, ScreenPointer, PointerFocus

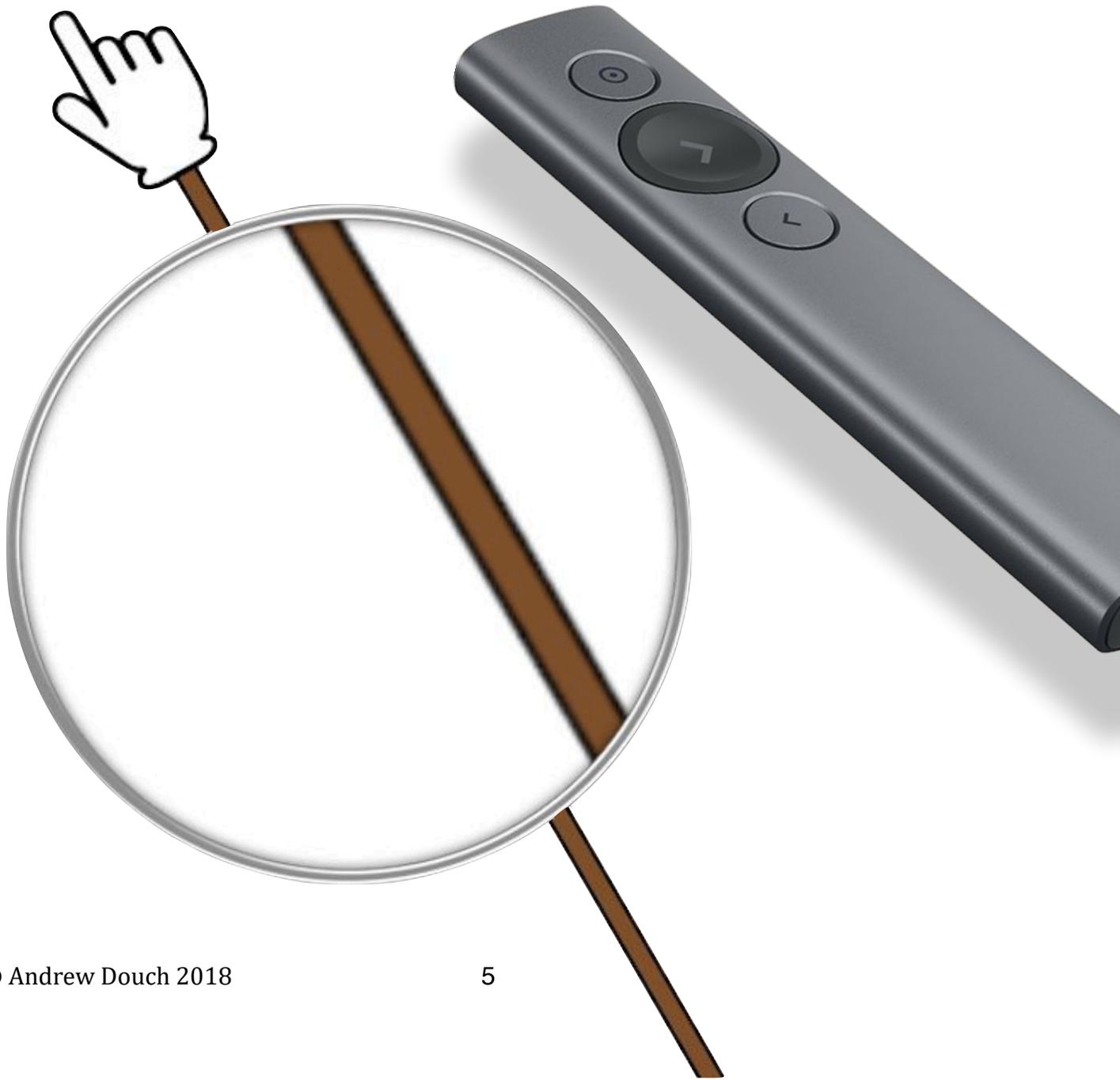
It's really important when in a webinar for students to know where they are supposed to be looking on the screen. But it's harder to direct their attention to something on the screen than in a classroom. I think you need a pointer tool.

If you have a Logitech Spotlight remote presenter, you can use the spotlight feature in a webinar. It works just as it would in a classroom.

On a Mac there is a \$5 app called ScreenPointer which gives you a virtual "finger" as well as a spotlight, magnifying glass, laser pointer and various other tools. I really like it.

The equivalent tool on Windows is called PointerFocus. It's free!

Logitech Spotlight \$190 rrp | ScreenPointer (Mac) \$4.49 | PointerFocus (Windows) \$free



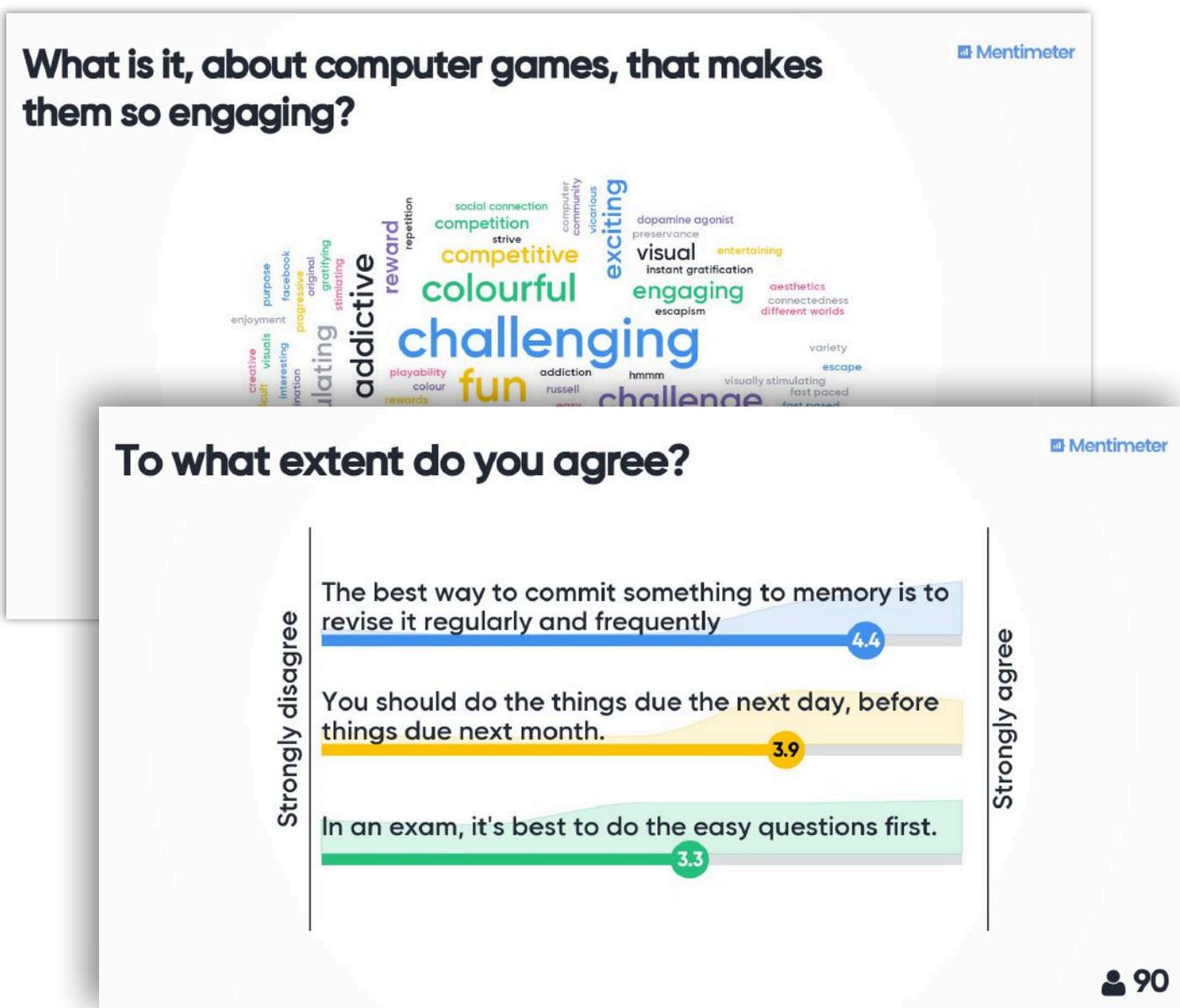
Advanced polling

Mentimeter

Mentimeter is a freemium tool that allows live polling, prioritisation, word clouds and other engaging participatory classroom activities. A great tool for engaging students at the beginning of a lesson. I particularly like the 'scales' activity, for asking students what they think (from strongly agree to strongly disagree) about a statement before teaching a lesson on that topic.

If you upgrade from a free plan to a paid plan, you can choose more themes (the free version only gives you nine) and the ability to make more than two activities per slideshow. You can however make as many slideshows as you like. Personally, I think the free version is sufficient.

Mentimeter | [mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com) | \$freemium



Even more advanced polling

WooClap

WooClap is an app that allows teachers to display questions of various kinds to a class. The class can respond from any internet-enabled device in a like way to other, similar services such as Mentimeter.

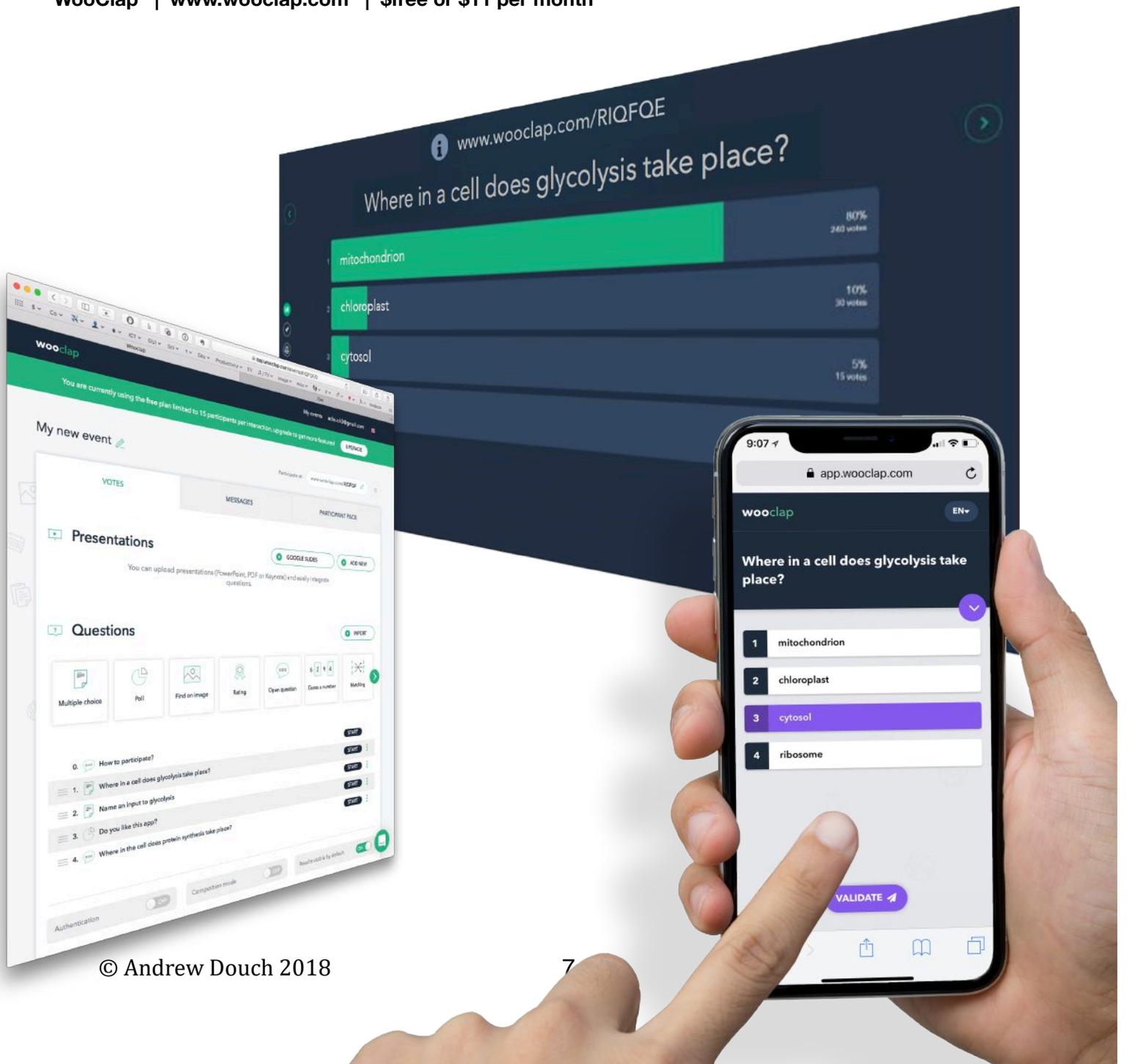
The question types in WooClap are different to those in Mentimeter (though there is some overlap).

WooClap allows you to make as many questions as you want to in lesson (for a free account, but it limits you to 15 participants, so you will want your students to partner-up if you want to use the platform for free (Unless you are lucky enough to have fewer than 16 students in your class!).

Paid accounts are relatively expensive at \$11 per month.

You could use WooClap in a number of ways, but I think it really shines for revision activities. I really like how fast and clean it is.

WooClap | www.wooclap.com | \$free or \$11 per month



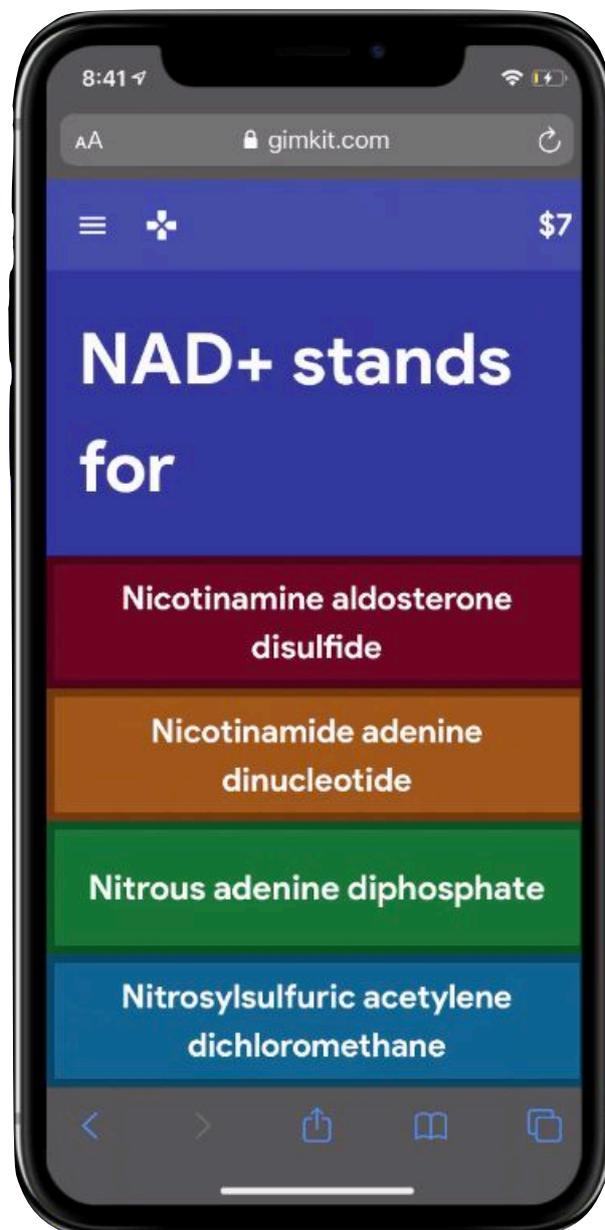
Gamified Learning

Gimkit

Gimkit is another learning game in the ilk of Kahoot and Quizizz. It's more fun than either, though. Students have ten minutes to make as much (in-game) money as possible. They earn money by answering questions correctly (and lose money by answering them incorrectly). After they have earned some money they can spend it in the in-game store to buy features that will help them to make more money. For example, they might purchase a points-doubler. While students are playing you can watch a graph of their performance (I.e. money tally) on the teacher's screen.

Students love this.

Anchor | [iOS App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#), [Anchor.fm](#) | \$free (with upgrades available)



Recording Audio Podcasts on iOS, Android or web using Anchor

Anchor is a relatively new podcasting platform available on both iOS and Android.

Anchor makes it easy to record a podcast right from your phone, or computer and upload it to everywhere podcasts are distributed, including the iTunes podcast directory and Spotify.



Anchor is able to be free because it is possible for listeners to donate money to you through the anchor platform. If they do, Anchor takes a cut of the donation.

One great feature of Anchor is that listeners can submit questions to you through the platform.

Anchor | iOS App Store, Google Play Store, Anchor.fm | \$free

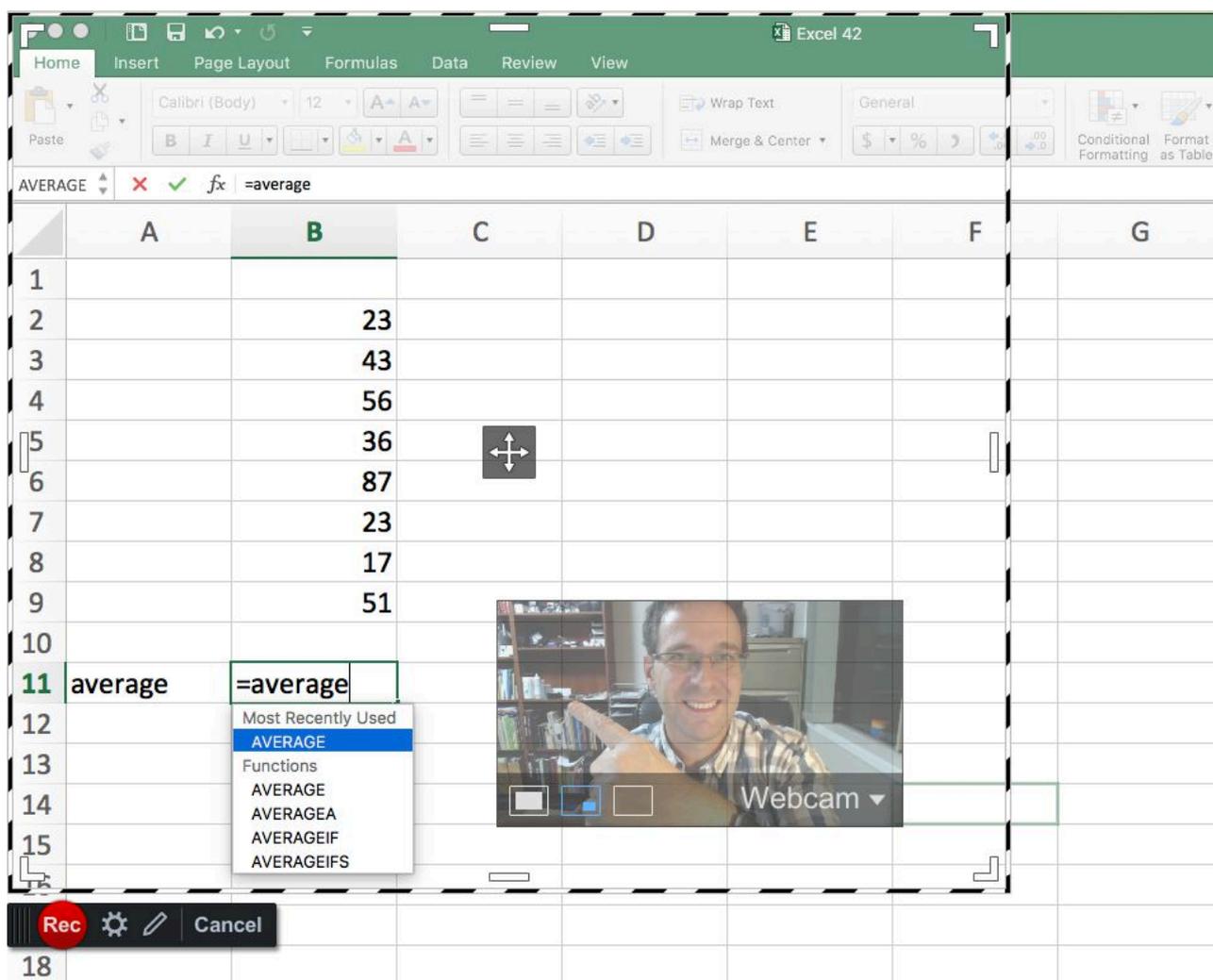


Make a screencast on your mac or PC

Screencast-O-Matic (Mac or PC)

Screencast-O-Matic (www.screencastomatic.com) is a really great option for making screencasts using a computer. It allows you to record up to 15 minutes, allows you to record your webcam video as well as your screen, allows publishing directly to YouTube and allows downloading in MP4 format. Best of all, it's free! In addition, if you want more features, a "Pro" account is only \$15 per year. A pro account removes the watermark on your videos, and provides you with a number of other features such as basic editing, and the ability to draw and zoom while recording. On a Windows PC it also allows you to record the system audio (rather than just the sound coming into the microphone).

Start by dragging the handles on the marquee to define the area of the screen you want to capture. If you are recording your webcam, you will see the video window on your screen. It is not necessary for this to be inside the marquee.



Once your

screen

is set up and ready to go, check the microphone and webcam settings in the panel beneath the marquee and then press the red "record" button.

Screencast-O-Matic will give you a 3-second countdown and then start recording.

While recording, the area of the screen that is being recorded will be framed with a red line. Note that it is possible to pause the recording to move things into the red box, but anything that happens outside the red box will not be recorded.

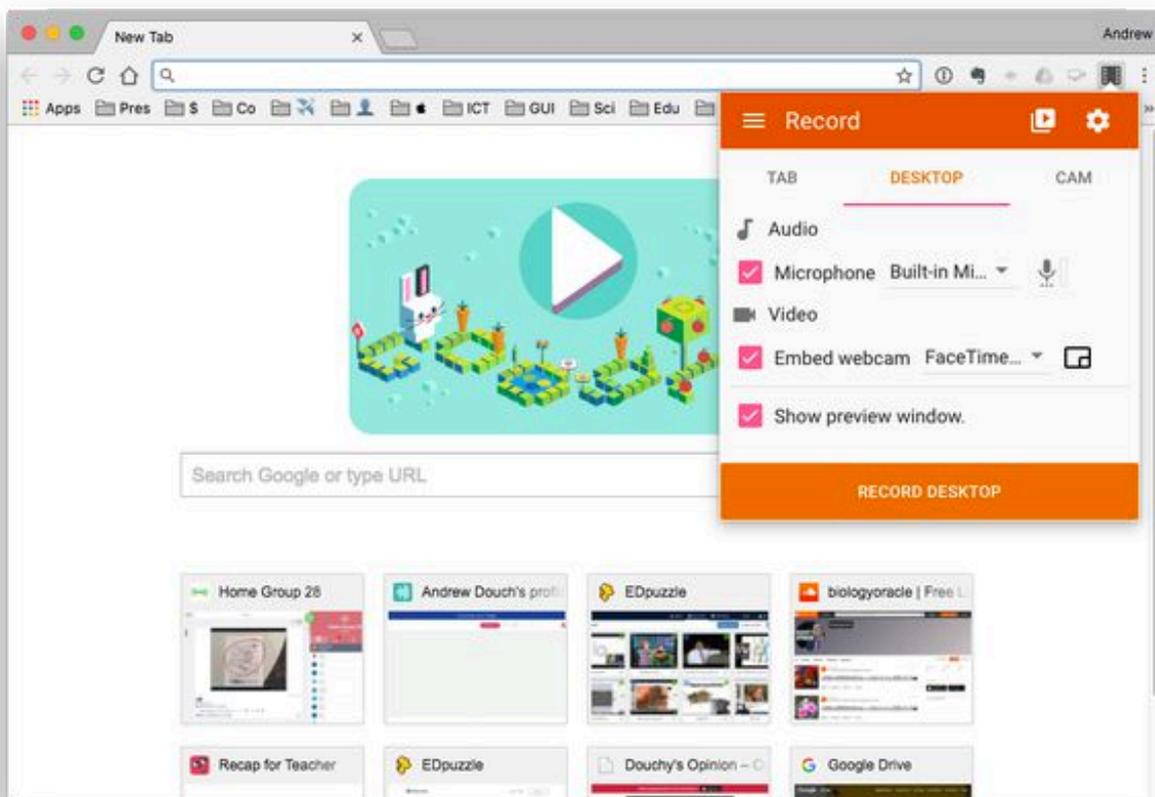
Once you press “Done” a preview/publishing window will open automatically. In here, you can resize and position the webcam video on the screen. You can also publish the video directly to Screencast-O-Matic or to YouTube (my preference). Or if you prefer, you can download the MP4 file directly to your computer and upload it to Dropbox, or your school LMS, etc.

While I think Screencast-O-Matic hits the sweet-spot for most teachers in terms of price, simplicity and features, if you want instructions and details for one of the other tools, you can download them in PDF format from here: <http://bit.ly/28-2-14>

Screencasting in Chrome

Screencastify

Another really great, simple screencasting tool that I highly recommend to teachers – especially Chromebook users, is Screencastify. It's as easy to use as Screencast-O-Matic, and has many of the same features, but it runs as a Chrome plugin, and saves your recordings to Google Drive. Having said that, it doesn't just let you record the browser window; you can record your entire desktop and optionally even your webcam (which, like Screencast-O-Matic will appear as a cameo picture-in-picture at the lower right of the video). Screencastify also allows you to annotate over a Tab recording, and has some basic editing features which you can use in post (if you want to).



The free version allows you to record up to 50, 10 minute videos (which in my opinion is long enough) per month, and watermarks your videos with a Screencastify message. To remove these limitations, and to enable editing and cropping, Screencastify Pro costs just US\$2 per month.

Screencastify | <https://www.screencastify.com> | \$free - US\$2 per month.

On-The-Fly ScreenCasting

CloudApp

CloudApp is another fantastic tool for recording your screen or part of it, including your webcam if you wish, and uploading the video to the cloud. It does most (not all) of what Screencast-O-Matic does but it does some other things, too (such as file sharing).

What makes CloudApp so attractive is its convenience. It runs in the menubar (taking very little memory) and when you record something on your screen, it automatically gets uploaded to the cloud, and instantly gives you a link to share the video (even before the video has finished uploading). That means you don't have to wait for the video to finish uploading before you can share the link, or before you can start recording another video. In fact, you can have several videos uploading in the background when you get to work recording your next video. That's great if you are giving video feedback to your students on work they have submitted!

CloudApp | www.getcloudapp.com | \$free year for teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic (normally \$168/year)

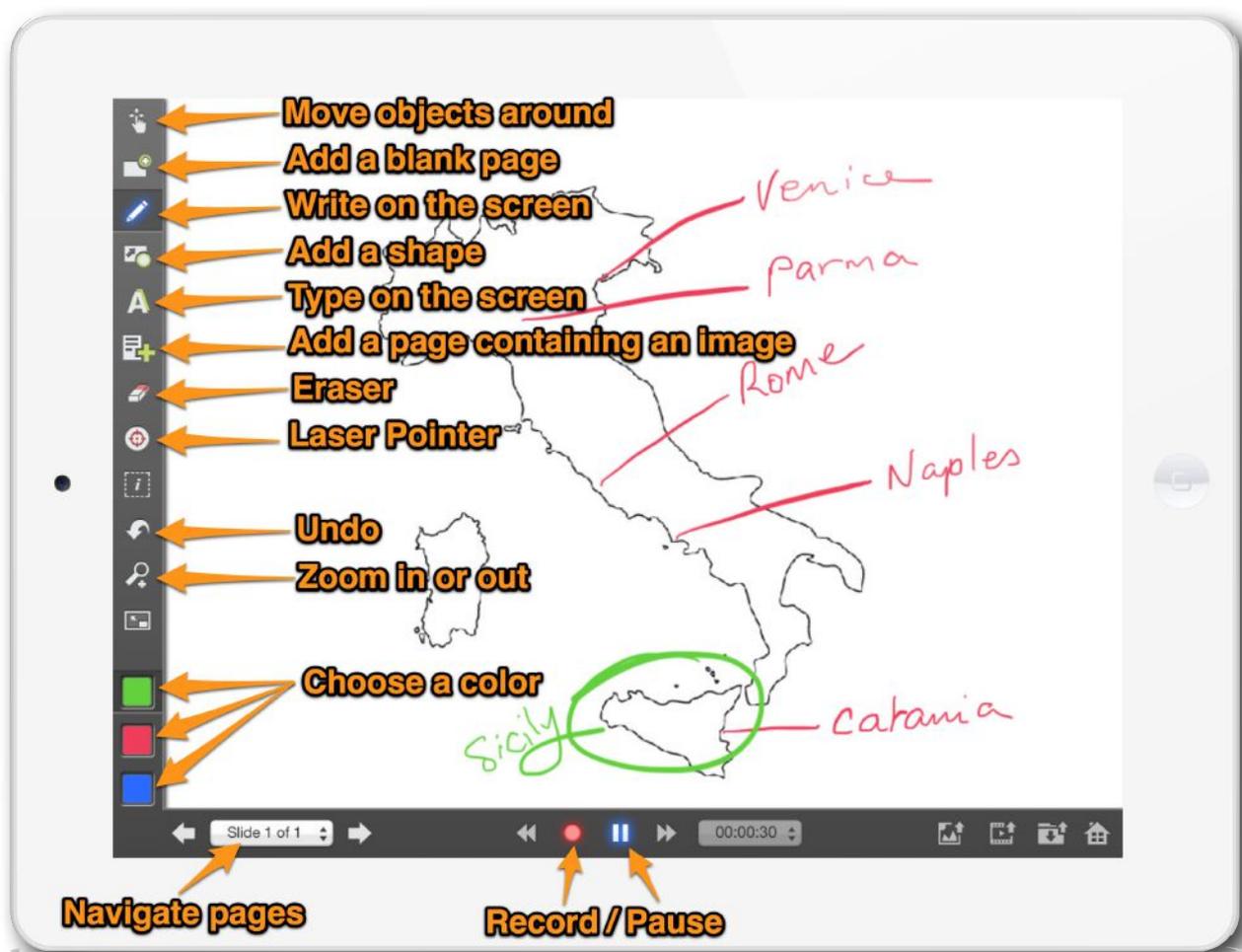


Make a screencast on an iPad: Explain Everything

There are a number of screencasting apps available on the app store nowadays. Educreations is a good free one, but for quality, nothing beats Explain Everything. If you have used an interactive whiteboard, you will feel right at home with Explain Everything. It is simple, intuitive and powerful.

Explain Everything also allows you to show your webcam video on the screen while recording if this is something you want to do.

Explain Everything | iOS app store / Google Play store | \$free - US\$6.99 per month.



Gamify Learning

Quizizz

One question that teachers often ask about Kahoot, is “Do students have to all play at the same time, or can you set the quiz to be played at home for homework. Quizizz is the answer to that question. When students ‘play’ a Quizizz they don’t need to be able to see the teacher’s screen, and students can answer questions at their own pace (within the time limits allowed for each question). This means that while you can have students all play it at the same time, you don’t have to and can set it as a homework task. In other respects it is very similar to Kahoot, in that you can see how each student has answered each question, see how the class has performed on various questions, and it is just as easy to set up.

Because students can answer questions at their own pace during the quiz, I don’t think it is as much fun for a quiz in class time as Kahoot. But if you want to send a quiz home, then it’s a great option.

Quizizz | www.quizizz.com | \$free

The screenshot shows the Quizizz website interface for a quiz titled "Photosynthesis". The browser address bar shows the URL quizizz.com/admin/quiz/56ced757bfd273e8335f499b. The navigation bar includes "QUIZZZ", "Public", "My Quizizz", "Create", "My Reports", and "My Memes". The user profile is "andrewdouch".

The main content area features a large image of green leaves on the left. To the right, there are two large buttons: "Play Live!" (orange) and "Homework" (green). Below these are smaller buttons for "Duplicate", "Edit", and "Delete". A "Share:" section includes icons for social media sharing.

The quiz details show it was created by "andrewdouch" 2 months ago for "K to 12th" grade. The quiz title is "Photosynthesis".

The quiz content is displayed in a list of 8 questions. The first two questions are visible:

- 1** During what stage of photosynthesis are ATP and NADPH converted to ADP + Pi and NADP?
 the light-dependent reactions
 the light-independent reactions
 none of the above
 both of the above
- 2** What reactants are necessary for the Calvin Cycle to occur?
I. CO₂
II. ATP
III. NADPH
 I only
 II only
 I and II
 I, II and III

Each question has a "30 Secs" timer. The interface also includes "Show Questions" and "Answers" buttons.

Adding Questions to your Videos: EDpuzzle

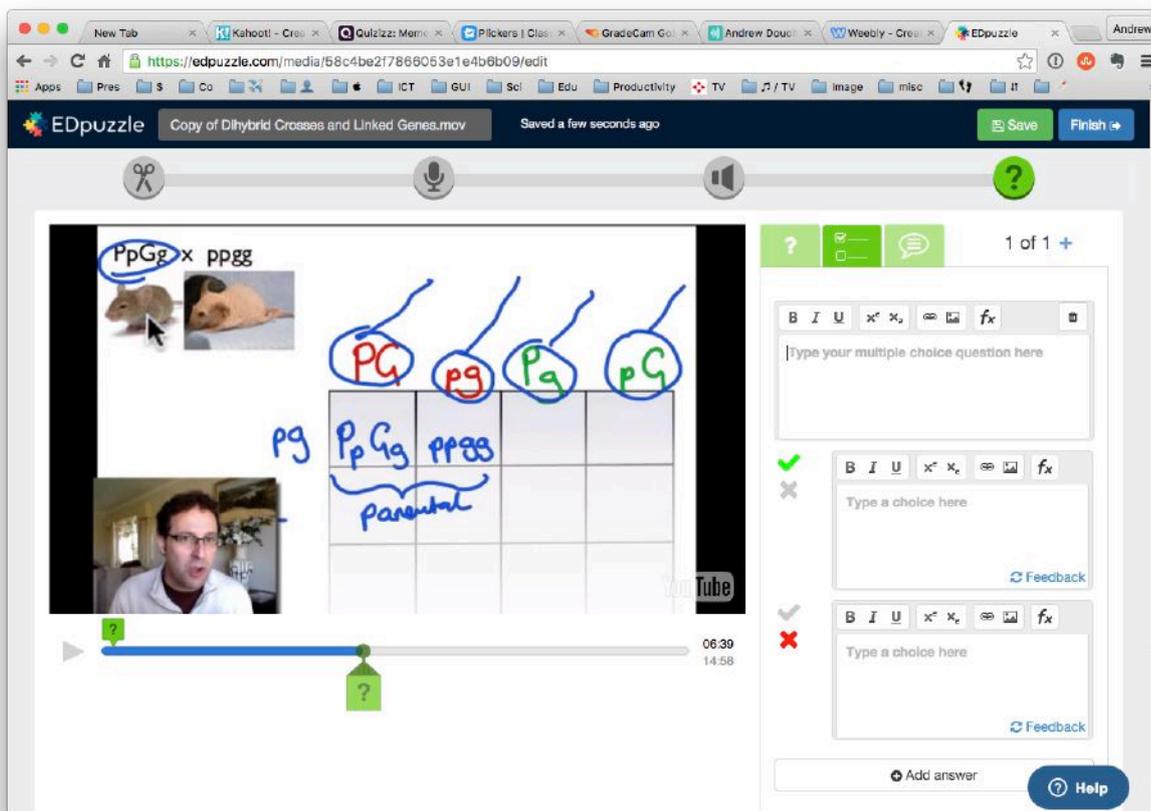
EDpuzzle is a web service and app (for iOS and Android). It solves two problems that are often raised by teachers who start flipping their classes: 1. It lets the teacher know if a student has or has not watched a particular video. 2. it lets the teacher see whether students have understood what they were watching.

To start go to EDpuzzle.com and click on “My Content”. There you can create a new lesson by clicking the “Create” button. You can create a lesson by either uploading your own video, or by entering the URL of a video in an online video sharing site such as YouTube.

Once the video has been selected, you can then add a question by clicking the “?” button at the top right of the screen, and then clicking the green “?” button on the timeline at each point you want to add a question to the video.

Once you have added all your questions you can share the video with your class. As your students watch the video either in a web browser or in the app, the video will automatically pause at each point where you have inserted a question.

By logging into your account, you can see which students have watched the video and what response they made to each question.



EDpuzzle | www.edpuzzle.com | \$free

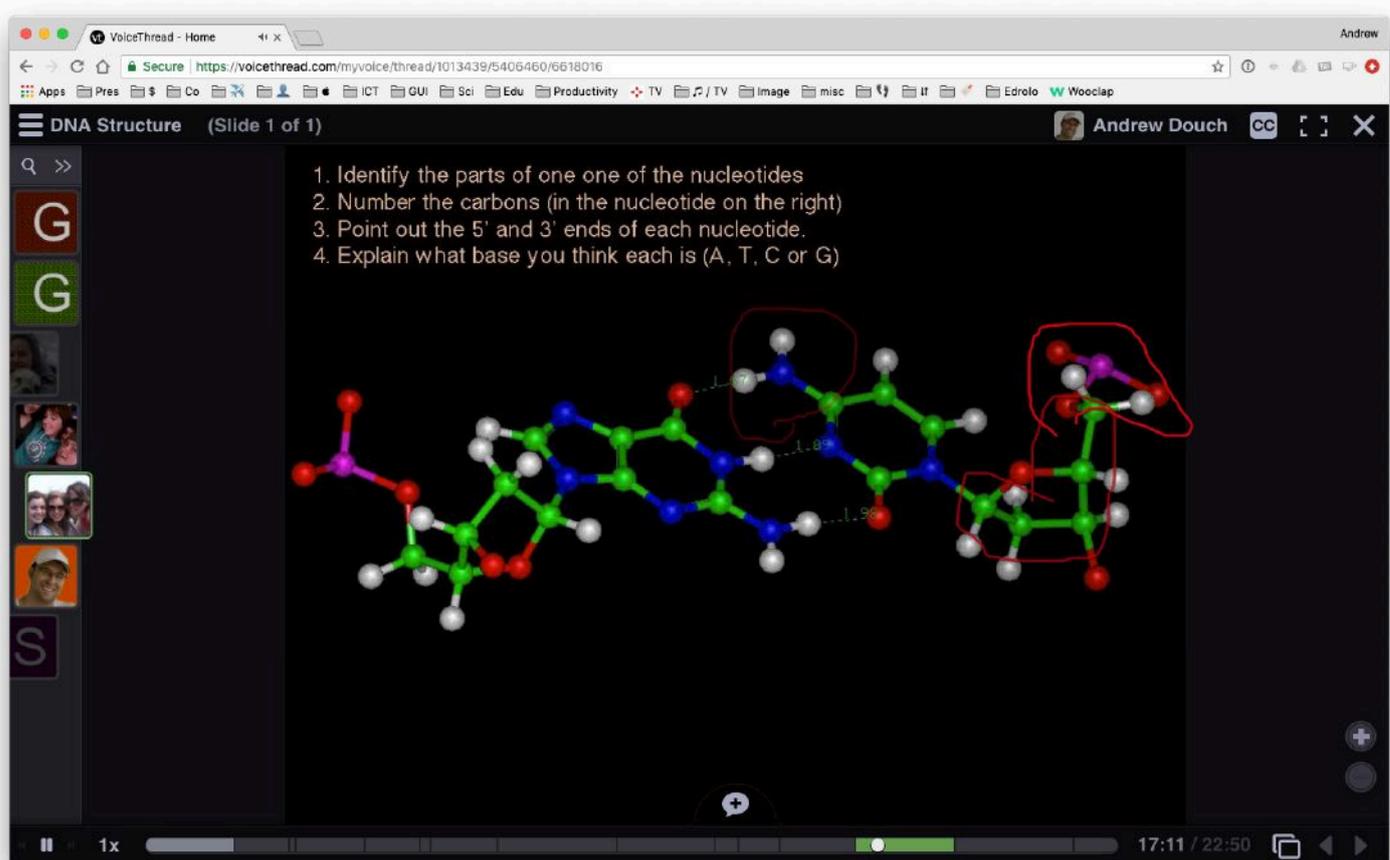
Social Podcasting

VoiceThread

VoiceThread is a great platform to get students all talking about a single topic. You can upload an image, and speak to your students about the image and then your students can respond in kind by clicking the microphone and speaking with their voice and drawing on the screen as they do so if they wish. All the students in the class can hear what each other have said.

The free license is quite limited. Ideally a teacher will have an educator license, which allows them to create up to 50 student accounts in a secure environment (students log in with a username and password to participate).

VoiceThread | <https://voicethread.com> | \$75 per year / \$15 per month / \$free



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a VoiceThread session. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/1013439/5406460/6618016>. The page title is "DNA Structure (Slide 1 of 1)" and the user is identified as "Andrew Douch".

The main content area displays a list of four questions:

1. Identify the parts of one one of the nucleotides
2. Number the carbons (in the nucleotide on the right)
3. Point out the 5' and 3' ends of each nucleotide.
4. Explain what base you think each is (A, T, C or G)

Below the questions is a 3D ball-and-stick model of a DNA double helix. The model is rendered with green and blue atoms, and red dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds between the base pairs. Two nucleotides on the right side of the model are circled in red, corresponding to the questions.

On the left side of the screen, there is a vertical sidebar with a search icon, a list of participants (including two 'G' icons and several profile pictures), and a 'S' icon. At the bottom of the screen, there is a video player interface with a play button, a progress bar, and a timestamp of 17:11 / 22:50.

A Better Show and Tell FlipGrid

FlipGrid is a similar idea to Recap. In many ways it is even more flexible. You can for example upload a video for students to watch and respond to. There are also more options able to be turned on or off - such as comment moderation, login via email, ability for students to leave video replies to other students, the ability to embed a grid in your website or LMS, the ability to create custom grid login codes, etc. Some of the advanced features require a paid account.



What really makes FlipGrid useful (I think) is that it now has the ability for students to record their screen instead of using the camera to record themselves. That makes it a useful platform for students to give a talk to the class including PowerPoint slides!

FlipGrid | <http://flipgrid.com> | \$free or \$65 per year

The screenshot shows the FlipGrid admin interface for a grid named 'Chadstone'. The page includes a navigation bar with 'My Activity', 'My Grids', 'MixTapes', '#GridPals', 'Disco Library', and 'Shorts'. The user 'Andrew Douch' is logged in. The grid details section shows a photo of the Chadstone Campus, the date 'Aug 10, 2018', the Flip Code 'chadstone', and an 'Add a CoPilot' button. Below this, there is a table of topics with the following data:

Actions	Title	Last Response
<input type="checkbox"/>	The one thing 13 Videos + Pinned Topic	Oct 21, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ideas 0 Videos	-