

Things to Consider if You Want to Implement a Specific Technology in Your Classroom

Learning Objectives & Methods

- Will the new technology help my students reach my specified objectives?
- Will the new technology empower students (e.g., make them more active learners)? Make learning more equitable?
- If the new technology provides me with data (i.e. clickers, blogs), do I have the time and knowledge to handle /manage/use the data generated?
- Is the new approach 'better' than the current approach? How or why is it better?

Class Context

- Is this technology appropriate for my class size? (e.g., large vs. small classes) Class context in general—will it fit?

Accessibility

- Can students access the technology? Is it available and accessible on different operating systems (if applicable)?
- Is there a mobile version, and does it function well/reliably (if applicable)?
- Will students incur additional cost to use new technology? If so, is it reasonable to expect them to pay for it?
- How steep is the learning curve? For me? For students? Is prior knowledge necessary? Do my students have it?
- Is it on Penn State's approved courseware list? See: <https://sites.psu.edu/coursewarepsu/>

Time

- Bang for your buck? Can it apply across times/contexts?
- Do the students need to know how to use it in the future (i.e. PowerPoint as essential tool)? Is it applicable to their future employment/use in the field?
- Is there a time investment required to learn, test, use the technology (on the part of the instructor and/or the students)?
- What's the evidence that the technology works? Are there examples available for how to use it successfully?

Troubleshooting, Support, and Utility

- How robust and dependable is the technology?
- Can it be adapted to other contexts?
- Do I know how to troubleshoot?
- Do I need a back-up? Plan B?
- Will I need support in order to use this technology? Is there support available? What is the quality of the support? Is there Penn State support available?