

Cracker-Barrel Proposal – Strength through Collaboration

- What is your idea, development or experience?

The initial idea was to evaluate students' impressions of, and feelings towards replacing the semi-interactive face to face lecture with a live Blackboard Collaborate Ultra session. As the project evolved, I decided to add Kaltura podcasts (with an embedded quiz) to add breadth and depth to the evaluation.

- Who have you implemented it with (i.e. who's your target audience, e.g. 2nd-year UGs)

This was implemented with a designated Level 5 module which has around 100 Criminology and Law students.

- Why have you implemented it?

With the move to Waterside in mind, and the need to replace large face to face lectures with something else, this was an obvious avenue to explore. Both methods are interactive, and allow students to engage with the material more than a traditional large lecture.

- What makes it different from what you'd seen or done before?

In this module, I had not used Collaborate or Kaltura in a methodical fashion. I had used Kaltura to record one lecture when I was representing the University overseas, but that was a "quick fix" rather than a designed activity.

- What worked? What didn't?

The project is ongoing, and the second round of feedback won't be collected until the end of March, but initial results suggest that, barring the inevitable technical issues (on-campus wifi connectivity especially) the students are engaging well with both alternative methods of delivery.

- Can it be transferred to other colleagues?

Yes. If this method of delivery is popular with the students, then it can be rolled out across the subject, Faculty and University.

- What are your reflections?

If colleagues are going to adopt this method of delivery to replace lectures, then training is essential – both systems are fairly intuitive, but a bad early experience for students will likely turn them off the technology.

- Questions for discussion

Have you used Collaborate Ultra for large groups? How did you find it?

What other approaches are you taking to replace lectures on large modules?

252 words (plus questions)