

Using VoiceThread to learn the endocrine system

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OBJECTIVES:

With the development of online learning platforms such as Canvas or Blackboard, learning online has become extremely convenient. Our goal was to evaluate the effectiveness of using online lectures to teach physiology by assessing student performance and surveying students.

MEHODS:

The physiology of the endocrine system was taught online through VoiceThread. Students were also provided the lecture slides, which included the text transcript of the online presentation. After completing the learning module, students were surveyed on their learning and perceived understanding of the endocrine system. Student were then assessed on their understanding and ability to apply the lecture content through multiple choice questions. Students' survey responses were compared with the assessment results to determine the effectiveness of the online learning.

RESULTS:

Students were grouped according to their survey response and the groups' performances were compared. Groups of students that used more studying materials or spent more time studying had better exam scores. Students who reported that they listened to the online VoiceThread lectures scored the highest of all groups, averaging an 87% compared to the overall average of an 85%.

COCLUSIONS:

The use of online lectures can be an effective means to aid learning.