Learning Enhancements

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Enhancement #1 (free)

- The Google Doc: www.google.com
  - Fosters collaboration (spreadsheet)
  - Daily demonstration of student work (in-class or at home)
  - Stores collaboration and document history
    - Show live demo or question list

Enhancement #2 (free)

- Buzzword Document: www.adobe.com
  - Less capable of multi-user format than google.
  - Has a more professional interface
  - Good for two person authorship
  - Collaboration is not a strength

Enhancement #3 (fee based)

- American Pageant: Text has an excellent online presence:http://college.cengage.com/history/us/kennedy/am_pageant/12e/students/index.html
    - Practice tests, id cards, streamed lectures from another teacher, critical links

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Enhancement #4 (fee based)

- Mac software
    - With Remote Desktop, I have the ability to view, share, take control of other Macs. Since my class is in the Mac lab, I can view every computer and "sieze" control of any computer at any time.
    - Remote Desktop, used in conjunction with Screenflow, allows a full record of use of networked Mac computers.
    - Word (for Mac) creates small size, audio recordings (not available on PC Word). 45 minute lectures generate less than 7 mb file. This is easy to email.

Enhancement #5 (free)

- Skype
  - This online phone-call has video and record capabilities. I can have class from a remote location and students can attend class from remote locations.
  - Was used for a student who broke both legs and was unable to physically attend class. There were "dropped calls," but we were able to reconnect quickly, and the video was great on both ends.

Enhancement #6 (fee based)

- 1-1 computer (desktop/laptop) access
  - Each of my students had access to all free and fee-based technological enhancements throughout the entire 45 minute class period.
  - Combined with the storage capability of Google, each student had 24 hour access to every written and spoken word.

Possible enhancement(s)

- Curriculum management programs
  - Sakaiproject.org (free): curriculum support
  - Moodle.org (free): curriculum support
  - Blackboard.com (the Microsoft of curriculum support).
  - Dragon Naturally Speaking (fee based): highly effective speech to text software
  - Turn it in (Fee based): Research-paper editing software

Benefits of learning enhancements

- 24 hour access to electronic notes, audio recordings
- Collaboration is effective, and be be done remotely
- Remote access to class is an untapped resource

Developmental Areas

- Computer rooms often lack character
- New and unique issues of academic integrity
- The teacher is not the center of attention
- Lectures may appear inefficient
- It may appear that "Books are dead."