


Kym Toporowski's Badges Quest

 <p>Technology / Challenge / Pedagogy</p> <p>Describe, add links, notate...</p>	<p>What are the possibilities? What works? What are the benefits?</p>	<p>What could go wrong? What doesn't work? What are the barriers?</p>	<p>Conclusions based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credo ● Sustainability ● Experience ● Psychology ● Research ● Gut feelings....
<p>For this quest, I read an article on the use of Badges from NMCHorizon Report. Badges are used as micro-indicators of achievement and are modeled after the badges children could earn if they were a boy or girl Scout. Badges motivate students to complete targeted tasks. Schools are looking at badges as a way to formatively assess students and teachers.</p> <p>Badges are an emerging technology and therefore, not prevalent in today's online teaching practices. They are akin to ribbons or certificates that are handed out in the face to face classroom when a student reaches a particular goal. There are a variety of different sites and companies that are currently developing different tools that could be used in the classroom.</p> <p>The act of rewarding student achievement by giving them something always brings the argument of student motivation to the forefront. Some instructors feel that badges motivate student and helps maintain engagement and promote perseverance, however, there are critics who feel that students are being motivated extrinsically. If so, students are not being motivated to learn for learning's sake. Some professionals simply see badges as a formative assessment and they prefer this method over giving traditional grades.</p> <p>Lastly, I find it interesting that badges are being used to monitor teacher achievement/professional development</p>	<p>The upside of using badges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● quick way to formatively assess ● fun for kids ● easy to monitor progress ● motivate students ● increase communication between peers ● simple to use once set up ● provides clear expectations to students 	<p>The downside of badges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● not many programs/web tools ready for use ● takes time to set up classes/curriculum ● extrinsic motivator ● doesn't replace summative assessment ● could cause self esteem issues if students aren't able to earn badges at same rate as peers 	<p>Badges are an emerging technology what will slowly, in my opinion, find their way into our teaching practices. Currently, there are few, easily accessible sites that can allow instructors to embed badges into their practices unless it's already incorporated into their current LMS.</p> <p>The debate will always continue in regards to motivation behind handing out rewards for student achievement. I feel, like the the article mentions, that badges are appropriate for formative assessment and for tracking achievement. For myself, I enjoy the badge system in my courses. It allows me to see my progress quickly and it does motivate me to continue to the next task.</p> <p>I am going to further investigate Badges to see if they can easily be incorporated with/into a website. If so, I would be interested in incorporating this practice into my teaching. Currently, I am looking at Classroombadges.com. I am hoping that it's intuitive and simple to set up and can be used to award badges to student once they have completed a task.</p>

completion. Not sure how I feel about this.....			
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