

The Evolving Document: using Google Docs as both formative and summative assessment

Last year I was at a CPD panel in which I saw four people simultaneously edit a Google Doc. Once I saw this quite powerful demonstration of the potential of Google Docs I then went on to explore its capabilities, one of which was the fact that it could be used to comment on sections of a document and that those comments could be expanded into a discussion forum. One of the pieces of assessment for my PG Cert in Academic Practice is a form in which participants detail their achievement of the different dimensions of the UKPSF. What I've always wondered is if this could be done in a more collaborative fashion i.e. have participants on the course commenting on each other's forms, thereby allowing a much deeper understanding of an individual's engagement with the dimensions to be facilitated than if it was just me commenting on them alone (Carless D, 2016). This year I'm testing this out with my current cohort. The beauty of this form of assessment is that there is an ongoing dialogue between me and the participants as to their engagement with the form. At the point at which I feel they have demonstrated successful engagement with all of the dimensions, then I will allow them to submit it for summative assessment. I use colour as well as my comments to indicate the state of their readiness for completion of the dimensions. An added benefit is that it also allows my External and second marker to see the progress made in a participant's thinking. Carless, D., 2016. Feedback as dialogue. Encyclopedia of Educational Philosophy and Theory.

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