

# Meaning and Motivation in Online Learning: Reflections on the Use of Audio



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## In the beginning...



- Observed presentation of great sophistication
- Pre-written course—content and design
- Audio version—read verbatim
- Video version
- Great look and feel
- My reservations
- Reservations about reservations



# Courses under Consideration



- Sophomore Writing Course on Research Writing
  - Required but
  - Detailed
  - Standard material
  - Meaning and motivation
- Senior course: Shakespeare: Power and Justice
  - Look in two directions
    - Historically
    - Present
  - Dauntingly complex material
  - Teacher's dream but challenging
  - Diverse Students

## Context: two recurring discussions



- Which is best, online or f2f?
- What's the same and what's different?
- Seven areas of particular concern for me as a humanities teacher...

# Pedagogical Flash Points



- Main learning objectives of the course
  - Personalization
  - Currency
- Significance of course (“meaning”)
- Weekly Focus
- Historical Dimension
- Contemporary Relevance



# Pedagogical Flashpoints



- Motivational...stressing the value
- Questions...probing...

# Conclusions



- No single, obvious use of audio
  - Conventional
  - More personal
- Interesting admin functions
- Meaning
- Motivation
- New territory...
- Conciseness...



## List of Audio Clips



- Personalized course overview of both courses
- Significance of both courses
- Weekly focus messages
- Historical dimension of 406
- Motivational aperçus...
- Shakespeare and today's culture