





Why enter the competition?

Recognition of project

- Peer reviewed
- Acknowledgement of relevance of the idea
- Chance to discuss and reflect
 - Find out if it really is a good idea

Personal recognition

- Teaching only academic
- Importance of teaching in HE
- Evidence of excellence

Student recognition

Acknowledgement of their effort





Challenges

Geographical

378 miles between Reading and Glasgow

Time

- Workloads
- Timing of class

Solutions

- Technology
 - Video conference & Skype





Why diaries?

Jennifer Moon

- Reflective diaries
- Process helps learning
- Mostly used by vocational groups
 - Medics
 - Teachers
 - Nurses

John Naisbett

- "High Tech, High Touch"
 - Online interaction aids face to face contact





Why Mahara?

- University of Glasgow supported PDP e-portfolio software
 - Open Source
 - Ability to make bespoke changes
 - Free
 - Links to Moodle





The Project

Business & Bioscience

- Two week, pre-semester course (NOW)
- Full time
- Business conversion course

Reflective diaries

- 11 students
- Coursework (5%)
- Check understanding
- Problems quickly address
- Became apparent that it was more
 - Quality of writing was high
 - Sense of community





Evaluation

Diaries

- Qualitative, themed analysis
 - Learning
 - Practical task
 - Sense of community

Focus group

- Sharing diaries
- Plagiarism





What do students think?

"This led to a rather uncomfortable weekend for me as I really contemplated for the first time my life after university and I realised the complete lack of direction I have and no real idea where I will end up in my career."

"I feel this reflective diary is very interesting and a great way to monitor the work you've done and keep on top of it. Also, because a diary is something we've never done before it doesn't really feel like coursework or homework because it's not hard even though we're learning new things all day."

"What [else] I got from that is the diversity that can come from even what seems as a small niche and how the changes in time can influence these is just mind blowing and actually really difficult. Makes me almost want to just go back at looking down a microscope."





The Future

Further analysis

- 16 B&B students
- Research students in CEES
- Taught PG students in Education
 - Length of time AND stage of education

Other interest

- Physics study groups
- TEFL
- Music

