

Tech Snacks: AI Tech Tools to Try in 2024

One of the current trends in higher education is the exploration of generative AI and how it can be useful for students and instructors in the classroom. This handout will explore the uses of two AI-based tech tools that instructors may find useful for developing instructional resources on a wide variety of topics.

Educaplay

Educaplay is a website that provides educators the opportunity to create their own instructional games. There are 18 unique game types, and all users have access to an unlimited amount of games they can create. Examples include: memory, matching, word search, crossword, word/sentence scramble, video quizzes, and more.

How can I use it?

The games can be used in face-to-face or online courses. In face-to-face courses, Educaplay can be a good resource for icebreakers at the start of the semester, warm ups prior to a lecture, and class reviews before a quiz or exam.

In online courses, the games can be linked directly into a Brightspace Content module, making it easy for organization and student access. You can share a link from Educaplay by copying the share link and posting it in the Content module. Make sure to check the box saying "Open as External Resource," to open the link in a new tab.

What does it cost?

After creating an account, Educaplay offers a basic plan that is free, but has feature limitations, advertisements, and public sharing of created activities. Students do not need an account to access Educaplay activities and they are mobile friendly.

Diffit

Diffit is a generative AI tool that focuses on helping instructors curate instructional materials using real, cited sources. Users can enter in a prompt, select a grade level, and choose from a variety of curated instructional resources, including reading passages, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, google slide decks, and images and diagrams.

How can I use it?

Diffit offers activities that can be used for both face-to-face and online courses. Faculty can create interactive worksheets that can either be printed or completed digitally using Google docs or Microsoft Word. The question sets created can be imported into Brightspace using the quiz question generator (contact OTLE for help).

In online courses, faculty can use the Google doc share link for Diffit activities to add the activity into Brightspace. In Google docs, you can generate a link that will require the user to "Make a Copy" of a Google doc, which will let students complete worksheets and submit them to Brightspace.

What does it cost?

Currently, Diffit offers a free version with limited access to certain resources, including printable documents, but they also offer a two-month free trial for instructors, with a monthly charge of \$14.99 once the free trial is over. Diffit is currently in the process of developing a school license, but only offers individual licenses for now.