

Wiki Technology in Block Teaching and Blended Learning: Fostering Development of 4C 21st Century Skills - Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creativity

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This workshop explores the benefits of using student-generated wikis as an assessment technique to foster the development of core 21st century skills. Developing 21st century skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity in a traditional university setting can be challenging and students increasingly expect learning environments that are engaging and interactive (Greenstein, 2012). In this workshop, we demonstrate how a traditional first year university biology unit was redeveloped for block delivery through the use of student-created wiki spaces, which served as a means for exploring five central themes in biology and for the development of key 21st century skills. Victoria University's Block Model® is particularly well suited for the implementation of blended learning strategies involving synchronous and asynchronous collaboration among students (Gauci et al., 2023). Instead of traditional teacher-centred lectures, a blended learning strategy that involves the creation of wiki spaces purposefully encourages students to develop 21st century skills through a deep exploration of real-world challenges along with their peers, with their tutor acting as a facilitator. In this interactive workshop, participants will be provided with multiple opportunities to reflect on the application of our framework to create a wiki space in their own area of expertise.

References

- Gauci, S., Edwards, R., Rajaraman, G., Salcedo, A., Kastis, K., Klein, R., & Sinnayah, P. (2023). Student preference and perceptions of asynchronous online activities for first year allied health physiology blended block units. *Journal of Block and Intensive Learning and Teaching (JBILT)*, 1(1), 46-65.
- Greenstein, L.M., 2012. *Assessing 21st century skills: A guide to evaluating mastery and authentic learning.* Corwin Press.