

Using the SECTIONS Model to Evaluate a Tool

Microsoft SWAY



S = Students

Consider the following questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around who your students are in relation to your chosen technology:

- Do students have access to the chosen technology?
- How will students be supported by the institution in their use of the technology?
- Will students have access to this technology whether they are at school, home or work?
- What digital skills would students need to have to use the technology?
- If students are expected to purchase the technology, are you able to provide a teaching experience that justifies this expense?

Yes, the students will have easy access to the chosen technology it part of the Microsoft Office Suite. Students will be supported by our IT Department as well as our eLearning team. Yes, students will have 24/7 access to the SWAYS. SWAYS are very user friendly. There is no need for student purchase.

E = Ease of Use

Consider these questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around the ease of use with your chosen technology:

- How intuitively easy to use is the technology?
- How reliable and how easy it is to maintain?
- Is the provider of the technology stable?
What contingency plans would you need to consider to ensure any digital teaching materials you create are not lost if the provider ceases to exist?
- Is there any technical support available?

SWAY is very user friendly and easily edited on the fly. SWAY is very reliable. SWAY documents are stored in the cloud. Yes, Microsoft is a very stable technology. If the SWAYS are loaded into an LMS, and the LMS went down, the SWAYS are not stored locally on the LMS, so the faculty would still have access to the course content if needed. There is the IT Department, as well as the School of Contemporary Teaching & Learning Department.

C = Cost

Consider these questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around the costs associated with your chosen technology:

- Will use of the technology (or creation of media) take time to develop? Can you do it quickly and easily?
- Does your institution have any funding available for innovative use of technologies in teaching?
- Can you get any instructional design or digital media professional support from your institution?
- What Open Educational Resources (OER) could be used to support your teaching and use of technology?

Microsoft Sway is a presentation program and is part of the Microsoft Office family of products. Efficient and effortless design, that can create appealing course content. There are many departments that work as a team to offer instructional design or digital media professional support.

T = Teaching and other Pedagogical Factors

Consider these questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around your teaching approach and any other pedagogical factors with our chosen technology:

- Does the use of this technology support the desired learning outcomes?
- What unique pedagogical characteristics does this technology represent for your teaching and learning in terms of content presentation and skill development?

Absolutely, when using SWAY, you can easily add content, add photos, videos, and other multimedia to make the course content easily accessible on any device or PC. Dynamically adapts so it looks great on any screen and can be shared or co-edited with a simple URL. Saves time with effortless designing and updating. Brings your content to life, making it interactive and engaging.

I = Interaction

Consider the questions from Teaching in a Digital Age, around your interaction level with your chosen technology:

- Does the technology facilitate any interactions that might be useful in terms of the skills you are trying to develop?
- Does the technology effectively support a good balance of instructor interaction time and student comprehension/skills development?

Yes, SWAY is an easy-to-use digital storytelling/ course content creation app for creating interactive reports, presentations, personal stories and more.

Yes, using SWAY would add a great balance between instructor interactive time and allowing students to comprehension/skills development.

O = Organizational Issues

Consider these questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around organizational issues associated with your chosen technology:

- What help does your institution provide in choosing and using technology for teaching? Is it valuable, accessible and current?
- Would your institution provide release time for a term and/or other resource support to help you in your technology-enabled design plans?
- To what extent will you have to follow 'standard' technologies, practices and procedures, such as using a learning management system, or lecture capture system, or will you be encouraged and supported to try something new?

St. Lawrence College provide many levels of help from many different departments when using and choosing technology. We provide one on one training as well as workshops, and many resources are available. Yes, our institution is very open and willing to help obtain the end goals. We use Blackboard and we are very happy with the overall functionality it provides and how well it works with many of our tools.

N = Networking

Consider the questions from Teaching in a Digital around networking abilities of your chosen technology:

- How important is it to enable learners to network with others beyond the course? Does the technology support this?
- If this is important, does the technology support appropriate social media sharing and collaboration?

SWAY is an excellent way to collaborate with others. If you are co-teaching you can simply share the “edit” link and you and our teaching partner can real-time edit and collaborate on the material.

S = Security and Privacy

Consider these questions, adapted from Teaching in a Digital Age, around the security and privacy of your chosen technology:

- What student information are you obliged to keep private and secure? What are your institution’s policies on this?
- What is the risk that by using a particular technology my institution’s policies concerning privacy could easily be breached? Who in my institution could advise you on this?
- Are there any areas of teaching and learning that you need to make available only to students registered in

you course? Which technologies will best allow you to do this?

You many different options of how you can deliver the content. You can use the embed code where the students don't even need to leave the LMS or website or post a visual link within the LMS or website that will take them to the content. When sharing the content, you can choose specific people or groups, those only in your organization with the link or anyone with the link. If there was any worry of privacy breaching, we have a Privacy Officer on campus that we could reach out to anytime.

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