**Experimenter, Extend Activity**

**By: Rob Harrison, Faculty – Georgian College**

1. **Which three experimenter activities did you choose to complete and why? Include links to your Activity Bank responses.**

For this module, I decided to create:

* [GIF representation of a course concept](https://bank.ecampusontario.ca/response/animated-gif-inverted-pyramid/)
* [Padlet resource sharing activity](https://bank.ecampusontario.ca/response/padlet-resource-sharing-activity/)
* [H5P Image Hotspot for introducing SMART Goals](https://bank.ecampusontario.ca/response/h5p-image-hotspot-activity/)

I decided to take on the GIF activity because I had never really considered using a GIF in a course before. That said, once I started to think about it, there are many opportunities to share this type of visual representation in my courses, especially those that are process based.

Padlet was a tool I have used in group PD sessions and during my MEd program but I have never personally set anything up on this platform before.

H5P is a platform that I am already in love with, but I am trying to make more intentional use of the various tools in my courses to enhance my content. This image hotspot tool allows me to chunk video content in a similar way that I might chunk written content.

1. **Identify and explain three overall lessons learned from experimenting with these three activities. How might you use these activities going forward in your teaching practice?**

The big lesson for me in this activity was one in creativity. I can honestly say, I do not consider myself to be the most creative person, so I really have to put effort into developing content and activities that break out of my standard molds. When I see the various options and tools available to me, I am encouraged that I will be able incorporate new and meaningful activities and assignments for my students.

Another lesson was that using tech does not have to be complex. Something as simple as a GIF to represent a concept can help convey meaning as well.

Finally, a lesson from this activity, but also one that the Extend modules have emphasized as the importance of collaboration in developing and revising tools. My colleagues can be a great resource to brainstorming how we can use a variety of tools in our courses. Being able to see the very innovative uses of these tools from other Extend participants is very helpful and I have had similar experiences with other technology.

I have already started using the GIF and the Image Hotspot in my courses. For the Padlet, I think this is activity, I might use as an assignment at the mid-point and end of the course.

1. **Mobile Device and Reflection**

I decided that the Padlet activity could be completed using mobile devices. In my current teaching, I have many students who use mobile devices for their course work.

I thought that the Padlet activity could be completed using a mobile device or tablet. These tools allow student to easily browse online and provides a simple way to type out their comments which will not need to be too long or complex. Also having reviewed the Padlet tool in a mobile device, the interface is actually quite user friendly, and I did not notice any ease-of-use issues that might make this more complicated for students.

In terms of disadvantages, I am sure as students add more information to the Padlet, it might be a little bit more difficult to scroll through and review the information. Additionally, students having reliable access to a mobile device or tablet will be key to this. Georgian College Media Services does offer loans of iPads for students so with some advance planning this might be an option for those who do not have access to a device. Students would need to reach out to them directly to request the iPad.

1. **Video Reflection:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0AyCXacbD0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0AyCXacbD0)