Using the SECTIONS Model to Evaluate a Tool

I will be using Fanshawe Online as the tool to be evaluated. This is the platform used within the College to deliver course content, email, messaging, and student grades.

S = Students

Do students have access to the chosen technology? FOL is available to all registered students using any of the standard web browser (Chrome, Explorer, Firefox, Safari, and many other 3rd party browsers.
How will students be supported by the institution in their use of the technology? Students are supported via online videos, help desk support (both emails, and telephone).
Will student have access to this technology whether they are at school, home or work? FOL is available via the WWW, worldwide. Some countries may restrict access to external sites, which may affect the student's ability to use this technology. (Iran, Iraq, North Korea, China)
What digital skills would students need to have to use the technology? Basic web browser skills
If students are expected to purchase the technology, are you able to provide a teaching experience that justifies this expense? Access is included free with the tuition paid by the student.

E = Ease of Use

How intuitively easy to use the technology?

FOL has been used within the college for over 10 years. It is very easy to use, with each major section selectable via the main page of the course site.

How reliable and how easy is it to maintain?

FOL is very reliable, during those rare instances where maintenance is being performed (Updates), adequate notice of at least 2 weeks is provided to the students. FOL is accessed via student's internet providers, so reliability is affected by the provider of student's web access.

Is the provider of the technology stable?

Yes, FOL is a customized program provided by a company that supplies this platform to a large number of Universities and Colleges across the World. The company provid3es 24/7 technical support to the college, and we have the ability to shut down parts of the application instead of the complete application if critical issues occur

Is there any technical support available?

To our student's technical support is provided online (password changes), via email, or phone.

C - Cost

Will use of the technology (or creation of media) take time to develop? Can you do it quickly and easily?

FOL provides the instructor the ability to upload a variety of media, easily and effectively.

The college provides prefilled course PowerPoint for each course, to ensure consistency across all sections of a course as well as ensuring each section obtains identical course material.

Does your institution have any funding available for innovative use of technologies in teaching?

As a provincial funded college, we are provided funding for innovation and technology in teaching. We have recently opened a technology centre at the college.

Can you get any instructional design or digital media professional support from your institution?

Through are inhouse design division we can obtain digital media profession support from both faculty and advanced students.

What Open Education Resources (OER) could be used to support you teaching and use of technology?

The use of Fanshawe Learn session (available to faculty) are provide through out the year for hands on support and ideas of using this technology.

T = Teaching and other Pedagogical Factors

Does the use of this technology support the desired learning outcomes?

FOL supports fully the desired learning outcomes. It allows for interaction between Professor and student, and student to student communication. Build into FOL are discussion groups, message and email functionality, BONGO and ZOOM virtual meeting, as well as content, assignment and exam functionality.

What unique pedagogical characteristics does this technology represent for your teaching ad learning in terms of content presentation and skill development.

The use of messages. Email, and discussion groups allow for collaborative learning. The use of feedback allows the students to reflect on their progress throughout the course. Students are able to use chat rooms, discussion groups and the virtual class room to ask questions (inquiry-based learning).

I - Interaction

Does the technology facilitate any interactions that might be useful in terms of the skills you are trying to develop?

Interaction between student and Professor, and Student to Student is critical for successful learning.

FOL provides a variety of tools to facilitate this

The use of messages provides real-time communication between parties (as long as all parties are online)

The use of email provides communication between parties in a non-real time manner.

Video conferencing (ZOOM and BONGO) provides parties face-to-face communication at a predetermined time.

Discussion groups allow students to post questions to a select group of participates or the class as a while

Project Management is 75% communication so an excellent suite of tools are required to achieve this goal.

Does the technology effectively support a good balance of instructor interaction time and students' comprehensions/skills development?

FOL provides the student with comprehension/skills development on a 24/7 time. The student can review the course material at any time during the course.

The use of ZOOM VIRTUAL CLASS allows the student to participate in real time with the Professor and their classmates. For those students who can not attend in real-time, these sessions are recorded and available approx. 8 hours after the class. Students can ask the Professor follow-up questions via email, discussion group, and messaging. If further discussions required, a ZOOM call can be schedule. All this is provided within the tool.

O – Organisational Issues

What help does your institution provide in choosing and using technology for teaching? Is it valuable, accessible and current?

Fanshawe College provides access to a variety of different tools to its faculty. (ZOOM, Kahoot etc.).

Leaning and Development provides lunchtime sessions on the use of technology at the college with emphasis on new tools to use in the classroom.

These sessions are always valuable and current.

Faculty can reach out to Learning and Development if they wish to try new technology in their classroom/online teaching.

Would your institution provide release time for a term and/or other resource support ot help you in your technology-enabled design plans?

In the past the College has reached out to instructors to participate in the use of new technology in their class room. I have never asked for release time for a term, so not sure if it is available.

To what extent will you have to follow 'standard' technologies, practies and procedures, such as using a learning management system, or lecture capture system, or will you be encouraged and supported to try something new?

Within the college we use a standard learning management system (FOL). Professors must use this system to teach provided course materials, and communicate with students.

Communication between students must be via FOL, using the students and Professors College provided email.

All quizzes, exams are loaded into FOL, and are consistent between sections of the class.

We definitely can utilize new technology or something new in our virtual classes as long as we continue to teach the core material as provided.

N – Networking

How important is it to enable learners to network with others beyond the course? Does the technology support this?

Fanshawe email addresses are embedded with the tool via course section only. Students only have access to those students enrolled in the same section of the course as they are.

If this is important, does the technology support appropriate social media sharing and collaboration?

There are currently NO plugins to social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn).

At this time there is no need to provide this for the course.

S = Security and Privacy

In Ontario, we are governing by provincial statues on privacy as well as Fanshawe Colleges privacies polices.

We are governed by the following privacy laws, Municipal, Provincial, and Federally

- FIPPA – Freedom of information and protection of privacy act
- MFIPPA – Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy ACT
- PHIP – Personal Health Information Protection Act
- CYFSA – Child, Youth and Family Services Act (For those students who have not reached the age of majority.

What is my personal information?

"Personal information" means recorded information about you as an individual. It may include your name, address, sex, age, education, and medical or employment history. It can also include identifying numbers such as a Social Insurance Number, and your personal views or opinions. Information that may seem personal, such as name and contact information, may not be your personal information if that information relates to your business activities, that is, you are acting in a professional capacity in the context of the information.

Within the college, additional identifying and personal information likes marks are also protected.

By utilizing 3rd party technology, they may not address the privacy concerns of our City, Province, and country. Many of these 3rd party applications are located outside of North America where privacy statues are either quite different then ours or non-existent.

The college has a privacy officer that can assist in questions around privacy.

Are there any areas of teaching and learning that you need to make available only to those students registered in your course? Which technologies will best allow you to do this?

FOL is available to only students enrolled at Fanshawe College. As well, specific information about students, enrollment etc. is restricted to only students within that section. Students can only see other students enrolled in the section of the course and not all the other sections or other course.

Messaging and email addresses are also restricted to students within their section of the course.

Student Marks are restricted within the section of the course to the individual student who has logged into the course using their userid and password.