

Purpose

To describe faculty experiences using the Flipgrid app to enhance APRN students' sense of community & to promote engagement in active learning.

Sample

Graduate faculty members teaching in selected MSN courses and the nursing students enrolled in them. The courses were advanced health assessment, health policy, genetics & embryology, and specialty seminar.

Methods

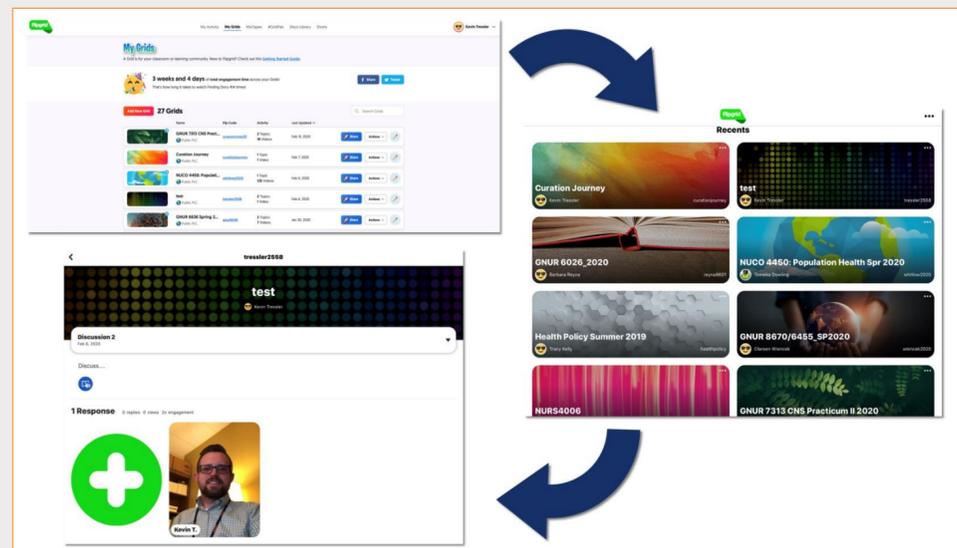
Flipgrid is a free video discussion tool available for use on most major platforms and devices. The application allows participants to record a brief video up to 5 minutes in length and share with other participants. Students and instructors can respond via their own short video.

Faculty developed Flipgrid learning experiences under the guidance of the instructional designer. Assignments included individual introductions, crucial conversations, responses to questions about a documentary, and ongoing policy debates

Findings

Student comments, course evaluations & ongoing survey data suggest positive student attitudes about these activities. For some students, being able to respond verbally was preferred over a written discussion board. Several students took the initiative to have colleagues role play as patients in the difficult conversations assignment. Students reported having to repeat their submission if they went over the allotted time but did not report difficulty learning to use the app.

There is a short learning curve for faculty to become familiar with this app. Faculty members felt the format, which gave a face and voice to each student, enhanced students' engagement.



Discussion

With the proliferation of high-tech equipment in medical centers as well as advances in telehealth, nurses' competence with technology is critical. Concurrently, students' experiences with learning technologies and enrollment in graduate online and hybrid coursework continues to increase nationally. Developing active learning experiences with apps such as Flipgrid can promote a sense of community and provide opportunities for engagement.



Conclusion

Flipgrid is a reliable, appropriate, and manageable tool to employ in APRN education. It allows for diverse assignments in hybrid and face-to-face courses and promotes student engagement with peers, faculty and with the course content. In large courses faculty might want to design optional peer-to-peer or group reviews as it can be time consuming depending on the length. It can be useful for introductions and limited assignments.