

AllAboutLinguistics.com

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Deliver a relevant digital curriculum

At the University of Sheffield, first year students in the School of English were challenged to create a website on the topic of linguistics. The result is AllAboutLinguistics.com, an engaging and meticulously designed open website covering 14 detailed topics and a general overview of the field. Original audio clips and images have been created to illustrate key points, and quizzes are used to check learners' understanding. The site has been accessed by A-level students and the interested general public, and won first place in an international competition for innovative uses of Google Apps, organised by Google and the Association for Learning Technology. So as well as developing their understanding of the subject, students have learned web skills, advanced use of Google Apps, and principles of educational design.

How does this meet the challenge?

Here in their own words are some of the benefits students have gained:

- *'It is nice to know it [the website] is going to go towards something useful rather than just another essay that won't be read again.'*
- *'The website is really innovative and a change from the usual essays and exams.'*
- *'Some of my flatmates are quite envious.'*
- *'The website design project has ... allowed me to be a lot more creative than I normally would be when writing an essay for example.'*
- *'It is difficult working in groups and getting everyone motivated, however, the setup of the website has allowed us to work individually as well as a team.'*
- *'I am excited to be part of this project and have told almost everyone I know about it. It has enabled me to engage with the topic in a way that no other assessment could.'*
- *'The multimedia aspect of the project is also a good introduction to the things on offer at the uni for future reference, e.g. video cameras, the editing suite, etc.'*
- *'These are skills that I can carry into a future career.'*

The course leaders adds: *'we know that students have developed digital skills because they have gone on to use these – and to ask for opportunities to use them – in other modules of their degree programmes'*.

Find out more

- AllAboutLinguistics.com

Contact: Gary Wood <g.c.wood@sheffield.ac.uk>