



NEWSLETTER

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ARTICLES

EDUCATION WEEK

TECH & LEARNING

This month's [article](#) comes to the conclusion that Differentiated Instruction (DI) is not working. The author cites results from at least four studies on differentiating. He concludes that differentiation is oftentimes too difficult for teachers to implement because of the diverse classrooms they inhabit. He further states that both teachers and researchers have conflicting ideas of what differentiation means. These results are controversial to some in the field and you can scroll down to the comments section to read some of these arguments. (JM)



ACRONYM ALERT

There are over thirty recognized audio formats used on the internet and computers. I will summarize a few of the most popular ones you will encounter. There are three categories of audio files;

uncompressed, lossless compressed and lossy compressed. Uncompressed audio files usually take up the most space because they are uncompressed. The two most common uncompressed formats you will see are .wav and .aiff. Pronounced like the word “wave,” the wav audio format is the main format used on Windows systems. The aiff format was developed by Apple and is used when moving music to and from your iTunes library. Compressed and lossless audio files take up less space and the difference in sound quality is not very noticeable. WMA is a common compressed lossless format for windows while ALAC is a compressed lossless format for Apple computers. Files in these formats will only take up half as much space as uncompressed files. The final category is lossy compressed files such as mp3 and aac. These are the most popular formats which compress sound files up to 10:1, but there is a trade off in sound quality. (JM)

RESOURCES

<http://www.chronozoom.com/> ChronoZoom®

ChronoZoom is an open source, interactive timeline created from a collaboration of UC Berkeley, Moscow State university and Microsoft Research. The timeline encompasses everything from the beginning of the universe to contemporary events. The way you can zoom in to different areas (i.e. Cosmos, Earth, Life, Prehistory, and Humanity) will help give the viewer perspective into the different geological eras and how recent the human epoch is relative to it all. ChronoZoom has interactive video tutorials, games and lessons to help students with historical thinking. (JM)



TECHNOLOGY TIP

Imagine this: You'd like your students to view a website but you are not quite sure how to share the URL with your students. You haven't yet created your class website so there's no where to post a link, and your students do not have a school based email address so there's no way to send them the link. And, writing that loooooong URL on the chalkboard or whiteboard would be disastrous. Well, why not shorten it?! Using a URL shortener you can then write down or dictate the short URL to your students.

A URL shortener is an online application that converts a regular URL (the web address that starts with http://) into a condensed format. The user only has to copy the full website URL and paste it into the URL shortening tool to come up with an abbreviated version that approximately 10 to 20 characters long.

Here are some tools to get you started:

- Goo.gl
- TinyURL*
- Bitly
- Snip URL*

* Allow you to create your own custom URL (KOH)