Using the Livescribe Pen in Distance Education

Timm Hackett
English Department

“What Distance Education students often feel is lacking in their overall experience is a sense of community and connection; however, putting a voice, and handwriting to a name really personalizes the lecture format in a way that a typed document cannot.”

— Larisa Putnam
Wachovia Partnership East Program

Used in Distance Education classes, the Livescribe Pen allows educators to capture lectures, respond to students’ work, and combine audio and textual comments.

The Livescribe Pens (Echo and Pulse) capture everything consumers hear and write and provide quick and accurate access to important information by simply tapping directly on the written notes either on Livescribe paper, on a computer or a mobile device.

Livescribe smartpens work in conjunction with Livescribe paper, which is plain paper printed with an almost invisible grid of micro-dots. The smartpen’s high-speed infrared camera reads the dot pattern, which enables a wide range of paper-based applications. The camera does not see ink written, nor does it see artwork on a page. Rather, the smartpen tracks and remembers where ink is written and knows the coordinates of items such as application buttons.

“I liked the Livescribe pen and pencasts so much that I went out and bought one and hope to incorporate its use into my own classroom one day. I believe it will be a great tool to help students struggling, especially with math, by viewing a pencast explaining mathematical computations.”

— Vickie Willis
Wachovia Partnership East Program

What Students Are Saying

“I really liked how you were able to write and speak concerning my paper. Yes, this is perfect for DE students like myself! I felt that I had a face-to-face meeting.”

— Paula Daughtry — SPED

“The Pencast] has an added bonus of giving distance education students more personal input from their professor, something that is lacking in some distance education classes.”

— Frank Campione — BSBA in Information Technology