

Quality Matters Review of VoiceThread

General Standard 6—Course Technology: Course technologies support learners’ achievement of course objectives or competencies.

#	Standards	AT Review
6.1	The Tools used in the course support the learning objectives and competencies.	VoiceThread can be used in a variety of ways. Faculty can use it to deliver course content, to open asynchronous discussions with students, or to provide an active demonstration area in which students can pause and ask questions. Faculty can choose to allow students to use VoiceThread to demonstrate mastery of concepts, either through individual or group projects.
6.2	Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.	One of the most common uses of VoiceThread is in the Week 1 Introduction, which is a key spot in the course to set the stage for faculty-student engagement. VoiceThread utilizes imagery or video clips and the actual voices of professor/student, thereby increasing student engagement. Further use throughout any course would promote interactive teaching and learning.
6.3	Technologies required in the course are readily obtainable.	VoiceThread is located in ALL DeVry courses under Course Resources, under an enterprise license agreement.
6.4	The course technologies are current.	VoiceThread pushes out constant updates and upgrades to their product, regularly making new features available – as well as free training in special features.
6.5	Links are provided to privacy policies for all external tools required in the course.	By default, student created and faculty-created VoiceThreads are visible ONLY to the members of each course section. Changing these settings is not easy and requires some intentional research on an individual’s part. VoiceThread’s contract was only approved by DeVry’s Legal Department after an extensive review by a Student Privacy Data Specialist, with specific attention given to voice recording being a specific type of data to protect. This is the link to VoiceThread’s FAQ page about Privacy: https://voicethread.com/howto/category/privacy-faq/