Digital Portfolios and Online Voting Systems : Best Practices in Assessment for Learning and the promotion of Self-Monitoring Skills

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Abstract: Modern curricula, including the new Northern Ireland curriculum, are increasingly requiring the integration of Assessment for Learning practices into the classroom. The complex manipulation of learning processes involved in Assessment for Learning becomes further intricate in special classrooms potentially due to the lack of self-monitoring skills of students with learning difficulties. The intention of this paper presentation is to comment on the best teaching practices and strategies employed to focus on the learning processes of students with learning difficulties in a conscious attempt to improve their self-monitoring skills and ultimately their learning. This approach comprises a combination of the use of digital portfolios and an online voting system. While the digital portfolio encompasses a range of online activities aimed at encouraging students to reflect and cultivate self-monitoring skills, the online voting system makes formative assessment a viable reality. Together, these approaches integrate Assessment for Learning strategies into everyday classroom practice.