Voicethread© challenges in speaking and writing

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Abstract: Voicethread©, a web hosted technology for creating collaborative slideshows, was incorporated in two English language classes to engage students in their fellow students’ written and spoken work, stimulate discussion, and encourage feedback and collaborative learning. The objectives of the classes were presentation skills and writing skills development. With Japanese students not used to making presentations in English and hesitant to give feedback on their peers’ work, Voicethread© was used to develop students’ confidence and skills in these areas. Students used Voicethread© over 15 weeks under an alias so they could get used to and gain confidence in providing feedback on fellow students’ written work, short monologues, and end of semester PowerPoint slides before embarking on offering feedback on each other’s work face-to-face and before making their class presentations. This article contains details of the success and challenges of using Voicethread© in this process.