



Opinion; As teachers, we may want to **acknowledge** that we are now interacting with a generation that is "wired". It is a generation raised to interact constantly with technology. Students are able to adapt fast to new media and opportunities for communication. It is a visual generation, learning as much or more from images as it does from text. This generation maintains and develops relationships via the net and cellular messaging. **For this generation, life is managed electronically.**



Scenario; "As their teacher, **things can get hectic administering review and prep tests for my class.** I want my students looking forward to even the smallest tests. Their busy lives put them all over the map when not at school. This activity is a logical text messaging enhancement for education. May their cell phones be with them. It was easy to schedule **M4E** to send 5 multiple choice review questions to my 50 student class Monday at 4:00 PM. **Surveys and tests can be created just-in-time.** Students respond to these question messages from wherever they are, when they can. They know answers must be in by Wednesday morning. I can set test submission deadlines for any class and test. **M4E** tests are graded for me, once the event is finished by the class. I spend less personal time grading interim test assignments using dated methods. Individual gaps can be remedied quickly up to semester finals. I feel more connected to my class... and that's a good thing."

Additional Rationale

This form of communication should be included as a valid medium for teaching and learning. Experience has shown that issuing a paper note does not prompt the response that 2-way cellular messaging does. Students will often comment by e-Mail or in person 'Got your text sir! It's hard to perceive the same response when issuing a memo. In their cellular world, students can get more connected to their teaching practitioners.

Student Feedback and Potential Cost Benefits

Student feedback can be positive and evaluations can show that students all read and understood received cellular queries. Using this type of communication within schools needs to be carefully monitored and researched. There is currently a limited amount of research into MMS (multi-media service) applications. Several web sites yield authoritative online sources for information on Internet demographics and trends. Over 200,000 people in more than 140 countries read their news and analysis every week. In the short term, when used for mission critical information, MMS has the benefit of cost over paper at about two cents per message and also it has a saturation and penetration benefit as a medium that most easily connects with youth culture.