The use of online videos to support student learning.

The goal of this project is to develop a series of videos to support student learning in the faculty’s introductory Accounting subject Accounting, Reports and Analysis (ARA).

ARA serves as a core subject in a number of majors around the university, principally within the BCom and BEnvs degrees, as well as a popular breadth subject. Depending on the semester 40-60% have prior studies in accounting (e.g. VCE) where as for the remaining students the subject is totally new. When this is combined with the high international student population the University has in commerce (most of whom do ARA in their first semester), ARA has an extremely diverse student cohort on three fronts: degree being undertaken, prior learning and background.

The project is aimed at developing a set of videos to be distributed via the LMS to better support students who are struggling with the subject in coming to understand both the technical and theoretical aspects.

To do this I will be producing two types of videos.

The first type is filming of tutors discussing the key aspects of the various topics in video clips of around 5mins length. In choosing tutors will be using people not much older students themselves from the similar diverse backgrounds, so people the students can connect readily with.

During these videos the tutors will highlight what of the topic they feel is important and discuss why it is important. This is to break down the topic to its key components and relate it to the rest of the subject. One issue we often find with students who are struggling with the subject is that they focus on the technical aspects trying to rote learn what to do, rather than understand why they are doing it. In producing these videos which will be available 24/7 on the LMS students can go back over the why as many times as they need to help them understand the theory.

The second type of videos will be flash videos (an online video format) of the technical aspect of the subject. These will mainly be online presentations of work examples that go into much greater detail then time allows in lectures, and also allows the use of hyperlinks to link to other relevant material, such as the discussion videos above, lecture notes or previous topics.

Students will also be able to pause, rewind and fast forward these videos so they can go through them at their own pace. The use of hyperlinks and the added detail of a presentation style delivery, rather than straight text as students might find in a text book, is that the “why” can be integrated (or linked into) the example much easier.

It is expected by developing these videos and making them available to students we will increase the level of understanding of accounting within the subject lowering the failure rate and increasing grades overall.