

SBE Active Blended Learning Newsletter

What does the new GenAI tool 'NotebookLM' mean for your teaching?

Activate



You may have heard about one of the latest GenAI tools that is receiving attention: [Google's 'NotebookLM'](#). You can try the tool for free. Your students might already be using it. You start by creating a 'notebook', which is a space in which you can upload all kinds of sources, including PDFs, websites, YouTube videos, audio files, and Google Docs and Slides. Google's AI model Gemini then synthesises these sources and makes a kind of custom chatbot that you can interact with, for example by asking questions and generating summaries.

Students can upload course materials—like readings, lecture slides, and audio recordings—to ask Notebook LM questions, though copyrighted content shouldn't be uploaded. This tool may allow students to answer assignments without fully engaging with the materials, so understanding its capabilities is essential. On the positive side, Notebook LM stands out by citing the original document sources in its answers. It can even automatically generate audio "conversations" (podcast-style) from uploaded files.

Dear SBE Educators,

In this SBE Active Blended Learning newsletter we balance high tech with low tech approaches to teaching and learning.

We also want to draw your attention to the upcoming Canvas awards that honour the hard work of our educators. If you or someone you know is using Canvas in a creative way to make course content clear and engaging for your students, please send a note about it to ctl.sbe@vu.nl. Prizes will be awarded at the SBE Christmas drinks.

Newsletter
online:

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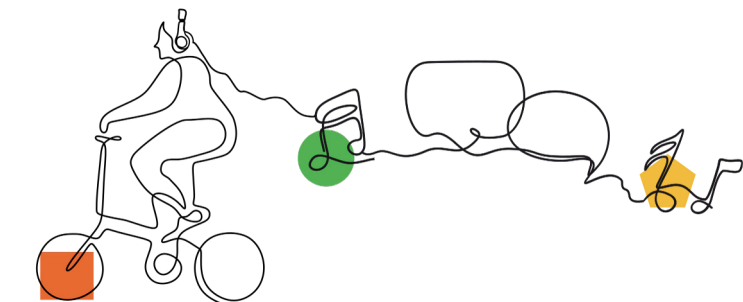
Could converting course notes into an AI-generated podcast help students learn during their commutes?

This Newsletter in a podcast

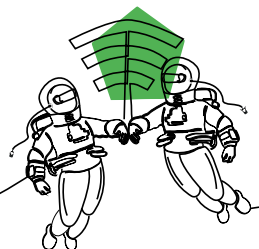
To illustrate, here's the podcast that Notebook LM generated from this newsletter text- note though that beyond minute 7 it has generated its own focus and content!



Our learning community is only just starting to see what Notebook LM and similar applications can offer. Please email e.w.hafermalz@vu.nl if you have ideas to share.



Connect



Do you run a course where students pick their own teams for group assignments? Katie Stephenson has developed a useful icebreaker tutorial activity that helps students get to know each other and select team members more purposefully.

Katie Stephenson
Assistant Professor, M&O



You need a classroom with a bit of space, so that students can gather in the middle of the room. You could put a piece of masking tape down on the floor to create a line that acts as your 'continuum'.

Students are told what each end of the continuum will mean for a series of questions. For example, what is your grade expectation for this assignment? With one end of the continuum representing a 10, the other a 6. Students are then asked to 1) stand at a point that represents their answer and 2) introduce themselves to someone who is standing near them, and discuss their answer. Other example questions include:

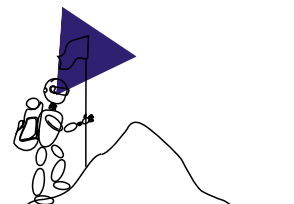
- How do you work in relation to deadlines? One end of the continuum for 'prepare in advance', the other end for 'last minute'.
- What are your strengths? Stand on the left side if you are more precise and detail oriented, and on the right if you are creative.

How does this relate to group work formation? Katie notes that at times it is beneficial for students to work with others who are similar to them but at other times the goal can be balancing out a group dynamic such as organisational skills and creativity.

To read more about this 'connecting' activity and get other ideas from our teaching community, see the SBE CTL page.



Empower



SBE CTL Interactive Workshop: Stimulating and Supporting Self-Regulated Learning

Date: Monday, December 9th, 2024

Time: 15:00

Duration: 90-120 minutes of immersive learning

Do you want to improve your teaching strategies and motivate your students to be responsible for their own learning? Then we invite you to take part in our engaging workshop on Self-Regulated Learning (SRL), designed specifically for course coordinators who seek innovative ways to stimulate independence and critical thinking in their classrooms. What will you gain?

- Practical tips for helping to empower students to take charge of their own learning.
- Step-by-step guide to incorporate SRL strategies.

Reserve your spot and take the first step toward more impactful and student-centered teaching! Minimum 3 and maximum 18 participants are required.



Open office hours: Support with basic grade registration in and out of Canvas
Need assistance with Canvas or Excel?
Join us for two office hour sessions:

1. Tuesday, January 7, from 10:00-12:00h
in HG 10A44

2. Thursday, January 9, from 15:00-17:00h
in HG 08A97

Our student assistants are here to support you with any technical challenges related to Canvas and basic Excel formulas. Stop by to get your questions answered and make your work easier! Please note: We are here to help with basic technical issues. For assistance with complex data or the official grade registration system contact studieadministratie.sbe@vu.nl.