

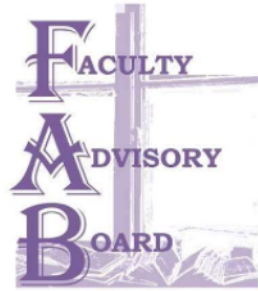
## **WEBSITE**

**[https://cirt.gcu.edu/frc/facultyacademy/odw/vyond\\_and\\_beyond](https://cirt.gcu.edu/frc/facultyacademy/odw/vyond_and_beyond)**

## **ACCESSED**

**May 23, 2021**

## Using Animation Video Software Programs in Educational Settings



### On Demand Workshop

This FAB-sponsored workshop is being presented by Dr. Erin Wais-Hennen, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. This workshop focuses on the use of animation video software programs in educational settings. Initially, the three different animated video applications that will be a part of this workshop are Vyond, Doodly, and Powtoon. Best practices, short how-to videos on making videos using these technologies, and the most effective ways to use the applications are discussed. This workshop will continue to be enhanced with additional information on other video applications, as the content is developed. Please check back often, to check out the latest information!

*Audience:* Online, Blended, and Face-To-Face Educators

*Keywords:* Animated Video Technology, Online Videos, Vyond, Doodly, Powtoon

### Introduction

In this first video, I briefly describe who I am and how I came to making these videos for my classes. I then outline the training. I discuss the financial cost, technical benefits, and drawbacks of using each of these technologies.

To access a worksheet comparing these three technologies please click in [HERE](#).



## Pedagogical Implications of Using Animated Video Technology

Animated videos became widely available for public use when online small businesses took off. The reality is that people who ran these businesses needed a way to get their products and ideas out there without purchasing eight to ten thousand dollars in semi-professional video equipment (the average cost of start-up for video production) (Brunner, 2021). Because these individuals were the technology's initial clients, the videos are geared toward three to five-minute "elevator pitches," or as they are called in the industry, "Explainer Videos" (Brunner, 2021).

When I saw these video applications in my M.Ed, Instructional Design Program, I immediately thought that these could positively impact my online courses and my friend's face-to-face classes. What a great way to explain an assignment or a difficult concept? A short three-to-five-minute video featuring at least one avatar makes sense. I have also (for fun) included avatars of my three-year-old child, my dog, and my cat coming into my videos because this is the pandemic world that we currently live in. Also, it helps the overall student appeal of my videos. The great thing about a video is that students can play over and over, thereby grasping the information in pieces. I find that these videos are particularly key for students who are not strong readers. They can listen to the concepts and those students who struggle with attention and other educational disabilities (Anderson & Putman, 2020; Ciampa, 2017).

I also use the pedagogical concepts of segmenting, signaling, and weeding in my videos (Mayer & Moreno, 2003, p45). The video below discusses both these pedagogical ideas and a host of other educational, rhetorical, and design tips geared toward helping you make your first video successfully.

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### Vyond

Vyond is one of the top easy-to-use animation software programs out there (Capterra, 2020). It provides a lot of animation at a relatively low price. Vyond has a free 14-day trial (Capterra, 2020). Using Vyond, people can easily be made to walk, run, play various sports, perform everyday tasks, and talk (Capterra, 2020). There are two different types of videos that you can create using Vyond, Traditional Animation Videos, and Whiteboard "Doodle" Animation Videos (Vyond, 2021). I will cover how to go about doing this in both cases, followed by a video explaining how to go about making an avatar.

# VYOND

[www.vyond.com](http://www.vyond.com)



## Creating an Avatar in Vyond



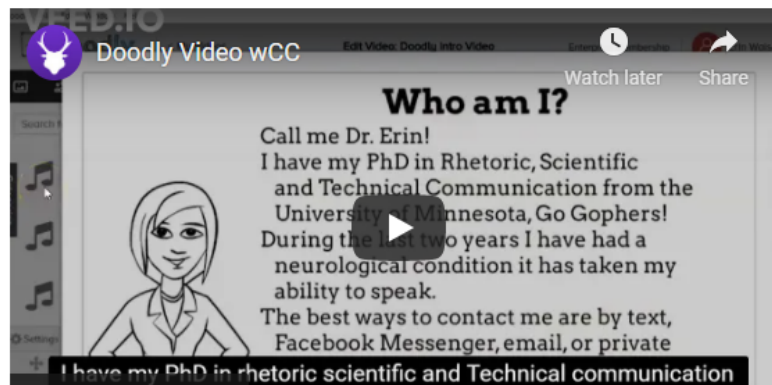
## Doodly



[www.doodly.com](http://www.doodly.com)

Doodly is an emerging animation video software program (Bhardwaj Brothers, 2020). This program is an interesting one, but it only allows the user to do whiteboard doodle animation videos. The videos are designed to make it appear that you are writing on a whiteboard (or chalkboard or green board or clear board) with a dry erase marker. This program allows for you to decide which hand, the gender of the hand, the race of the hand, or if you want to use a hook instead of a hand, you can (Doodly, 2021). This program allows for the most choices when it comes to whiteboard animation doodles (Bhardwaj Brothers, 2020). Another added bonus from this program is that you get access to the Doodly Facebook group, a community of people asking questions and posting videos (Doodly Facebook Group, 2021). The community is great in giving feedback on both ideas for videos and the doodles themselves. Unlike the other programs, Doodly does not have a free trial offer (Bhardwaj Brothers, 2020). My first video on this program will cover how to make a Doodly video, and the second will highlight how to create an avatar using the Doodly program.

## Whiteboard "Doodle" Animation Videos





## Powtoon

Powtoon is the most used animation software video software in the world (Powtoon, 2021). There are various options, and like all of these programs, there is the opportunity to upgrade, but Powtoons is the steepest. The initial program is free, and you get four days of access to premium content, but after that, it is \$20/month if billed yearly (\$240) or \$89 a month if billed monthly (Capterra, 2021).

Note that access to the whiteboard animation option is only something that premium members can take advantage of (Powtoon, 2021). The first video will cover how to make a traditional Powtoons video, and the second will cover how to make a whiteboard doodle animation video. Finally, the third video will highlight how to create an avatar using the Powtoons program.



[www.powtoon.com](http://www.powtoon.com)

### Traditional Animation Videos



### Creating an Avatar in Powtoon



## Final Thoughts

My hope in creating this on demand training was not that you would go out and spend a lot of money. The most cost-effective option is purchasing the one-time Doodly package for \$69. Also, the free Powtoon option cannot be beaten, but your videos can only be up to 3 minutes in length. That being said, Vyond has the best animation options. In addition, please consider both the "how to use the technology" aspects of this training and the pedagogy behind creating successful videos part of this training, which is discussed in the second video in this training. Finally, please keep with ADA policy and close caption any videos you create as you create videos. VEED is an easy and free tool to add closed captions to your videos (VEED, 2021).

Dr. Erin Wais-Hennen is happy to continue the conversation about animation software used for educational purposes. Feel free to email her to: [Erin.WaisHennen@my.gcu.edu](mailto:Erin.WaisHennen@my.gcu.edu).

### References and Other Sources

**Thank you for attending this workshop. We hope that you found the workshop informative and worthwhile.**

#### Acknowledgments to:

Dr. Erin Wais-Hennen

[Erin.WaisHennen@my.gcu.edu](mailto:Erin.WaisHennen@my.gcu.edu)

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**GCU** Workshop

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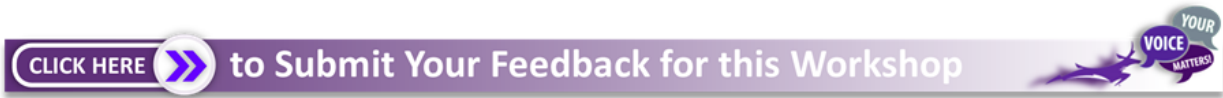
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