

Title of Session: Online Teaching and Learning

Moderator: George Klemic

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Room: Online Teaching and Learning Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's Online Teaching and Learning discussion, everyone!

BJB2: Roger Goodson usually leads this discussion, but George is a colleague we'll recruit to help us out today ;-)

GeorgeK: OK

BJB2: we usually start Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please tell us where you are located and what interests you in this topic

GeorgeK: Who has played in this space before?

GeorgeK: Sorry, I teach management at Lewis U. in Illinois.

BJB2 smiles...I think you have some newbies here, George

RachelSa: I teach fourth grade in Virginia

VivianSh: Hi everyone, I'm Vivian from Staten Island New York, I've never been here before so this is kinda new for me

RachelSa: new for me too- I have only attended tips and tricks before

VivianSh: I'm not teaching as of now, I'm doing my master degree in elementary education

GeorgeK: To make this most useful to all of you, what is your interest? and what would you like to discuss?

JeffreyF: I'm in Copperas Cove, TX., I teach 11th and 12th grade ELAR, I'm interested in this topic because I'm interested in technology, and I'm going to be experimenting with an online credit recovery lab this year.

RachelSa: I am interested in literacy- at the elementary level... but any elementary applications would be great for me!

VivianSh: I want to see how can we use technology in our classrooms

JeffreyF: I'm very new to this, primarily I'm interested in learning motivation and management techniques

VivianSh: same as Rachel also

GeorgeK: I can speak mostly to college level but my wife teaches 3rd grade and has an ed tech masters

GeorgeK: On the motivation and mgt area, I know it well but am not sure how translatable my knowledge is to K-8

BJB2: we often find that even with newbies to Tapped In, you all have some good ideas also...so please don't hesitate to collaborate.

GeorgeK: In the/my classrooms, interesting subject matter equates to motivatable situations.

BJB2: as for motivation, you'll find that K-12 loves to work online...

GeorgeK: I suspect the same for you, true?

BJB2 nods to George

RachelSa: yes!

JeffreyF: At my level, kids typically do not have a desire to learn, but they do have a desire to graduate, Ironic... I know.

VivianSh: that is so true, my brother's daughter is in 5th grade and she loves sitting and working online

GeorgeK: Is the desire to not learn or is the issue the dryness and irrelevance of what we are teaching?

JeffreyF: I teach at a school that serves military dependants, they have very unique experiences and are typically of the very low socioeconomic scale.

VivianSh: I think the desire not to learn due to the irrelevance of what we teach

BJB2 nods solemnly to George. Are your students taking classes online, Jeffrey?

GeorgeK: and they may not understand that human capital (the value of what they know) is incredibly important

GeorgeK: Vivian, what is it that is irrelevant?

JeffreyF: We have worked with some online learning this year. It's a combination of working in a lab at school, and on their own. We have that just don't want to do the work. I'm probably beating a dead horse.

RachelSa: I feel the same thing- don't worry!

GeorgeK: not beating, just trying CPR

VivianSh: I think that the kids these days got smarter than before and that all comes to computers and stuff. If what we are teaching them is not as enthusiastic then it is irrelevant, I guess that's what I'm trying to say

BJB2: are you doing any project based learning, Jeffrey?...especially global PBL

GeorgeK: I think so too, Vivian

BJB2: ahhh...the entertainment factor

JeffreyF: You are right, but much of what they need to learn cannot compete with today's enthusiasm.

RachelSa: yes! They come to school to be entertained!

JeffreyF: I do project based learning with my more advanced kids

RachelSa: why not with all?

JohnSB joined the room.

GeorgeK: At the U-level, we know that research engagemnet early on works in motivating students. Maybe that is entertainment.

BJB2: welcome, John.

JeffreyF: Some do not have the self motivation to get the work done. As a matter of fact, many of them will not even begin the project based assignment.

BJB2: we're discussing student motivation in an entertainment based online environment

RachelSa: have you tried figuring out what does interest them?

VivianSh: the level of enthusiasm is different between the students

JeffreyF: Absolutely, but it is very difficult to fit in their interests with academic requirements.

RachelSa: I think we all deal with the same thing.

RachelSa: What they want to do and need to do don't always go together

BJB2: what about publishing online...blog, wiki....for an authentic audience?

JeffreyF: I know, I understand, but I am continually searching. The search never ends.

BJB2: or digital storytelling?

BJB2: . o O (so many ways to do that)

JeffreyF: I would be willing to hear some ideas on the blog. I have done it before, but it is a turn-off when I require that they use proper English, not perfect, but not slang or texting

JohnSB: Sorry for being late...What is the discussion?

VivianSh: well I serve 1st and 2nd grades in Sunday school, and they love digital story telling

BJB2 smiles...cool, Vivian

RachelSa: why do they have to use standard English?

BJB2: we're discussing student motivation in an entertainment based online environment

JeffreyF: I have had a little success with digital story telling

VivianSh: no just animated pictures takes their attention really good

JohnSB: Is there a specific content..Music, science?

VivianSh: but there is a minority of them that are just not interested

VivianSh: so I use a different motivation

BJB2: older kids can use photostory and add music

JeffreyF: I can't read text message nor most ghetto slang, besides it's not going to get them any where

VivianSh: like have them act the story

GeorgeK: They have to use standard English because it is embarrassing to have foreign students in college get better English grades than our own students.

BJB2 nods to Vivian. Differentiated learning

RachelSa: have you thought about making the message that they are sending?

RachelSa: rather than the dialect?

JeffreyF: I'm not sure I understand Rach

VivianSh: me too

RachelSa: let them use the nonstandard English

JohnSB: I agree

RachelSa: at least you have gotten them motivated to learn!

JeffreyF: I can't rationalize that

RachelSa: well- what is standard English?

JeffreyF: I'm an English Teacher

JohnSB: Let them have ownership. catch them and move from that point

RachelSa: I understand that there is a time and place for formal writing and speaking

RachelSa: but there is also a place for nonstandard English and informal writing

RachelSa: wouldn't a blog be just that

JohnSB: Yes

BJB2: when you get a chance take a look at

<http://www.edmestoncentralschool.net/uploads/jchase/musicvideotoo.htm>

BJB2 . o O (hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url)

RachelSa: Is this in California (the video clips)?

JeffreyF: I just realized that

BJB2: this is the latest videos produced by John Chase's middle school students...NYC

RachelSa: ok thanks

BJB2: John leads the monthly Learning From Lyrics discussion

BJB2 . o O (since I mentioned differentiated learning)

BJB2: His students do a lot of writing to support their work

VivianSh: interesting ...

RachelSa: I love it!

BJB2: you can view John's profile at
<http://www.classroom20.com/profile/JohnathanChase>

BJB2 . o O (and it's rural NY)

BJB2: Developing skill-based interdisciplinary lessons and social justice learning activities that stimulate both the heart and mind.

BJB2 wonders if Jeffrey is getting inspired?

JeffreyF: I'm still downloading,

RachelSa: I am sure these kids are motivated and engaged in their learning, reading and writing!

BJB2: whoa....you might want to look later, Jeffrey

BJB2 nods to Rachel.

JohnSB: I attended a conf. with Ruby Payne this week . She talked about different speaking registers and that it is important to move students from one register to another but...to motivate them start with their register and educate them about the type of register used in the formal - work place, social etc.

JeffreyF: I like that idea

RachelSa: exactly!

BJB2: can you define "register" John?

RachelSa: they need to be able to "code-switch"

BJB2 . o O (do you mean appropriate language for different settings?)

JeffreyF: Register is the dialect they are mostly exposed to and use as their normal

JohnSB: Yes..Casual is every day talk, Formal would be the work place She said that it is the way we write and speak in formal settings

BJB2: thanks.

VivianSh: ooh I get it

JohnSB: Must kids in poverty do not use this register because they are not presented with it daily only in school

JohnSB: They need to understand that formal leads to job success and money

BJB2: that would be an interesting assignment...do the same 'story' in different registers

JohnSB: YES

RachelSa: so we have to expose them to it- but at the same time we cannot devalue their culture and way of life

BJB2 nods to Rachel

RachelSa: very cool idea

BJB2: one of my favorite ideas for story starters is photographs

JohnSB: Correct it not bad that they use formal because it is their register..They need to know the value of learning new registers

RachelSa: agreed

VivianSh: totally

JohnSB: Benefits all

BJB2: you could take a photo and write about it for the local newspaper, for the international news source, for a blog, for the school paper, etc

JohnSB: Learning to use registers starts with conversation than moves to writing

BJB2: great idea, John...gives the kids ownership for the discussion

GeorgeK: and the blog would be great for discussing the "news".

JohnSB: News reports commercials. etc

JeffreyF: Should I let my students teach me their register?

RachelSa: yes!

VivianSh: It's a good approach

RachelSa: how motivated would they be???

JohnSB: If they see you are interested they will listen to you

JohnSB: Its all about motivation

VivianSh: It depends on the way you throw it to them

JeffreyF: I just had a wonderful Idea, a blog (similar to urban dictionary, only school appropriate) where we can discuss their language and the language I want them to learn

RachelSa: yes!

JohnSB: Great

GeorgeK: yes

RachelSa: Then they will see the need for both forms

RachelSa: and feel as if they both have value

VivianSh: definitely

VivianSh: because somehow people just stopped talking formally

VivianSh: especially here in New York

RachelSa: not all people ever did!

JeffreyF: That's the case with many of my students

VivianSh: and all the abbreviated words

VivianSh: such as LOL, OMG, and so on

VivianSh: I know it's all kind of a computer language

RachelSa: but that is a learned and necessary literacy skill as well, isn't it?

JohnSB: especially if you are texting!

RachelSa: computer and technology literacy is what they will need the most!

JeffreyF: I would say that it probably is. I don't see one using formal language on a text message

VivianSh: but at work you're not going to use it

JohnSB: cursive vs. word processing??? Your thoughts?

RachelSa: right

JeffreyF: Both

RachelSa: both!

JohnSB: sure about that?

GeorgeK: Do any of you remember the forerunner of the text message...the telegram?

VivianSh: ? how

GeorgeK: You paid by the letter, so syntax and other conventions went out the window.

JeffreyF: Yes, I think kids gain a lot through the practice of writing by hand, and they will also need to know how to write by wd processor

RachelSa: I completely agree

VivianSh: important point

JohnSB: With limited time and increased demands is cursive becoming a lost art? Is this something students really need?

BJB2: along with analogue clocks and tying shoelaces, John

VivianSh: I LOVE analogue clocks

VivianSh smiles

JeffreyF: All standardized tests require it. Many college professors require writing in class (the blue books), and there will be situations when technology is not available

VivianSh: true

RachelSa: yes they need both, however handwriting is no longer the writing focus

GeorgeK: only when Mickey's hands are pointing to twelve :)

JeffreyF: As long as I can read it

JohnSB: But not referring to hand writing- just cursive. Kids will learn to write in primary grades. Is there a real need for cursive?

VivianSh: I think that computer technologies are skills and something to be taught, skills such as walking, talking , ...etc

BJB2 . o O (we also need to remember that we're teaching elementary children for jobs that haven't even been invented yet)

RachelSa: yes they need to write it- many that can't write it, can't read it!

JohnSB: absolutely- teach more thinking skills

JohnSB: agree- less of this is the right answer- encourage better questioning of students

JeffreyF: I know that this is scheduled to go on until 7:30, but my kids are calling me to dinner. I will post on here somewhere a reflection of what I have learned, and I have learned a lot. Thanks everyone.

GeorgeK: Thanks Jeff

VivianSh: bye

BJB2: Thanks, Jeffrey...join this group

JohnSB: What's for dinner?

BJB2: then you can post to the discussion board

BJB2 winks at John.

JeffreyF: Enchiladas I think

VivianSh: mmmm

JeffreyF left the room (signed off).

JohnSB: Back to the topic

BJB2: Does anyone else have any questions or concerns?

VivianSh: yes I do

BJB2 . o O (I love the collaboration that is taking place!)

BJB2 listens to Vivian

VivianSh: now that technology is an essential part of teaching

JohnSB: part of life

VivianSh: I was wondering how better use it?

VivianSh: I don't think that most teachers use the most out of it to teach their students

GeorgeK: The Nike theme may say it all, just do it.

JohnSB: Is it a management issue?

RachelSa: how are you using it

VivianSh: that is what I want to learn from you?

BJB2: again, I think we need to teach students not specifically HOW to use a technology, but WHY to use technology...what is your message, your goal, do you understand media literacy so you can use the medium wisely?

RachelSa: Do you model the use of technology through your teaching strategies

BJB2: there is a K-12 Student Campus here in Tapped In where you can bring your students ...

GeorgeK: and using it is a state of constant practice, not a state of constant demonstration of mastery...let them teach us a bit.

VivianSh: and also what if you don't have it ? can you still work effectively?

BJB2: this is a safe and secure place where students can learn appropriate behaviors in a social networking environment

JohnSB: Saw kids using the Internet to access a telescope in Australia. They could manipulate the telescope over the Internet and take images of deep space objects like nebulas and galaxies.

BJB2: excellent comment, George...and that reminds me...

JohnSB: The flip side is seeing kids sitting doing worksheet like stuff

BJB2: watch the TI calendar for an upcoming mini expo series on using the student campus as a learning hub

JohnSB: Have you heard about 21st Century Skills?

BJB2: where your students can demonstrate what they are learning

VivianSh: what is that??

BJB2 nods to John

GeorgeK: tell us, John

BJB2: NortelLearnIT is going to be sponsoring much of the mini expo

JohnSB: Kids need to manipulate the technology- not the other way around

BJB2: www.nortellearnit.org

RachelSa: teachers need more training for technology sometimes- many are scared!

RachelSa: the students often know more than the teacher

BJB2: Rachel, that is exactly why we're offering this mini expo series

BJB2 . o O (although teachers should be willing to let the kids teach them)

RachelSa: yes they should

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

VivianSh: you're right, Rachel

BJB2: I have the next Online Teaching and Learning discussion scheduled for July 30.

BJB2: I hope you will be able to join us and let us know what you've tried that worked!

GeorgeK: I'll be there.

RachelSa: thanks!

VivianSh: I'll try

JohnSB: Is this an accountability issues- teachers don't feel they have to use it- We offer many training sessions- but often it doesn't transfer to the students.

BJB2: John, and Rachel and Vivian...please join the TI Mini Expo group and give us some input on planning

VivianSh: because some teachers don't think it is essential

GeorgeK: Bye all, until next time. Thanks.

VivianSh: there should be some kind of a follow up on teachers how much they know about technology

JohnSB: or think of it as an add on not an integrated part of the lesson

BJB2: the next scheduled TI Mini Expo planning discussion is July 2 at 4pm EDT

BJB2: Thanks, George, for getting the discussion started!

VivianSh: bye George nice talk

GeorgeK: My pleasure.

JohnSB: by George- thanks!

RachelSa: bye!

BJB2 waves goodnight

GeorgeK left the room (signed off).

BJB2: any last questions?

VivianSh: no

JohnSB: just food for thought-

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2 . o O (joining a group subscribes you to the group discussion board so you get reminders of upcoming discussions)

BJB2: I also twitter @ tappedinorg

VivianSh: I'm starting to like these discussions

JohnSB smiles

BJB2: Vivian, the more you participate, the less you focus on the tech and the more you

focus on the content of the discussions

VivianSh: true

BJB2: . o O (text chat is a learned skill....just like anything else)

VivianSh: I'm not used to it yet

BJB2: that's where those transcripts come in handy!

JohnSB: Any thought on individual student accounts and Internet safety? Many of the 21st century skills mention the use of sites that would require these things.

BJB2: that's why the Tapped In K-12 Student Campus is so great, John...

BJB2: the teacher creates the classroom and assigns usernames and passwords to the students

VivianSh: I want to attend that one too

JeffC: waves... feel free Vivian!

VivianSh: smiles

BJB2: so the students don't need email accounts....and you can get on with the business of learning how to use a social networking environment appropriately

JeffC: during that tour I show you a class I set up three years ago when my daughter was in 2nd grade.

BJB2: once you've done that, then you can branch out to using other less secure environments

BJB2: did I answer your question, John?

JeffC: they corresponded with another school, peer reviewed sites their teacher and i posted for them, and did powerpoints on the solar system.

JohnSB: I understand that parameters can be set in web sites like Tapped In but when talking about students creating global relationships how does that happen in a secure environment?

JeffC: great question john.

JeffC: here the students default to be locked into their own classroom, with no outside contact.

JohnSB: So nothing that is synchronous- real time?

JeffC: however, the teacher may officially "collaborate" with another class.

VivianSh: I think there is a way to control that

JeffC: yes... they *can* speak synchronously with others, but only if the teacher permits it.

JeffC: and the teacher receives *all K-12 student transcripts* (including private chat).

JeffC: more likely you'll have to convince your IT people to allow chat from Tapped In.

BJB2: John, you could collaborate with another teacher anywhere in the world

JohnSB: Again, does that become a management issue for teachers?

VivianSh: there is a program that can control what you see on the computer

VivianSh: I forgot what they're called

JeffC: most districts will firewall chat... the solution is found at <http://snurl.com/tifirewall> ... management is always an issue... but there is help here.

JohnSB: Yes, but expensive

JeffC: students love working with each other, and with others from other schools, online.

JeffC: Tapped In is 100% free

VivianSh: yes I remember, they are called kiosik

VivianSh: it depends on what you want to block

BJB2 turns the helpdesk sign over to Jeff and heads off into the real world.

JeffC: so are a number of other sites... tapped in can be used as a learning hub, as i said, post links you want students to visit on an image note, have them discuss (asynchronously) on the threaded Discussion board, brainstorm on the Whiteboard, etc.

BJB2 waves bye again...btw, I did do a plug for the mini expo, Jeff

JeffC: there's a way to poke a pinhole in the firewall Vivian.

VivianSh: bye

JeffC: bye Bj