# Using Social Media to Engage Learners

Dr. Patrick O'Connor Dr. William Kist

#### Literacy Outside the Classroom

Some students who can't seem to focus on academics can spend hours outside of school on tasks they find engaging, be it video games, art, car repair or extracurricular activities.]

#### Social Media to Engage Learners.

- National Dropout Prevention Center
- January 13, 2015
- William Kist, Ph.D. and Patrick J. O'Connor, Ed.D.
- Kent State University

### Social Media are Engaging

 Interactive and social media technology can stimulate the interest of bored students and the participation of shy students. Web-based instruction can motivate students by creating more opportunities for active choice and collaboration.

### Multiple Strategies Needed

 No single strategy will work to motivate all students. Motivating students often requires a combination of strategies that address the specific reasons why a student has become disengaged from school. A comprehensive effort between students, schools and home/ family is needed].

### Tale of Two High Schools

- 1. "A high school's status is tied to its rigor. The tougher the better...The new reality for high-achieving students: work crazy-hard in high school and cruise in college. In high school, they pile on the college-level A.P. courses, face reading lists that can't realistically be completed, and tackle complex advanced ideas once reserved for undergraduates."
- 2. 40 percent of college students take remedial courses.

New York Times, "The Incredibles," January 7, 2007; The Commission on the Future of Higher Education, 2006

• 14%

children 5-8 say they are low-frequency readers

• 50%

15-17 year-olds say they are low-frequency readers

Scholastic/Yankelovich poll, June, 2006

• 65%

Children 5-8 think reading for fun is very important

• 40%

Teens age 16-17 think reading for fun is very important

Scholastic/Yankelovich poll, June, 2006

- Three times as many boys (than girls) think that reading for fun is "not at all" important.
- Fewer boys than girls say they enjoy reading for fun and read on a regular basis.

Scholastic/Yankelovich poll, June, 2006

#### The Tipping Point

 As of 2006, people under 18 spend more minutes per day reading from a screen than they do reading from a page.

» Don Leu, University of Connecticut

#### Reading From a Screen is Different

 Reading from a screen is a multi-modal experience (includes print, design, still images, moving images, sound, advertising) Reading from a screen is more social

Reading from a screen is more mobile

Of Buzzfeed's 100 million visitors in February, 2014, over 50 percent were from mobile devices

"Buzzfeed aims content at viewers' emotions" Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 21, 2014

#### "Social Media and Young Adults"

www.pewinternet.org

 73% of wired American teens now use social networking websites, a significant increase from previous surveys. Just over half of online teens (55%) used social networking sites in November 2006 and 65% did so in February 2008.

#### Social Networking Sites and Our Lives

Pew Internet and American Life Project, June, 2011

- Facebook users are more trusting than others
- Facebook users have more close relationships
- Facebook users are much more politically engaged than most people and more open to opposing points of view
- Facebook revives "dormant" relationships

#### **Texting**

- The median number of texts (i.e. the midpoint user in our sample) sent on a typical day by teens 12-17 rose from 50 in 2009 to 60 in 2011.
- Much of this increase occurred among older teens ages 14-17, who went from a median of 60 texts a day to a median of 100 two years later. Boys of all ages also increased their texting volume from a median of 30 texts daily in 2009 to 50 texts in 2011. Black teens showed an increase of a median of 60 texts per day to 80.
- Older girls remain the most enthusiastic texters, with a median of 100 texts a day in 2011, compared with 50 for boys the same age.
- 63% of all teens say they exchange text messages every day with people in their lives. T

http://www.pewinternet.org/~/media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP Teens Smartphones and Texting.pdf

# Snapshot of Reading 2013: People are Still Reading Books!

- More adults in America read at least one book in 2013 than did so in 2012 (76%, up two pts.)
- E-book reading is on the rise, but print-book reading is far more popular (69% read a print book in 2013 vs. 28% read an e-book)
- The younger the age group, the higher the percentage who read with some form of e-book
- Women read more than men over all formats (Women, 82%; Men, 69%)

Snapshot of Reading in 2013: Pew Internet research Center

## People Are Reading in Different Ways Than in the Past

Amazon.com now sells more Kindle e-books than paperbacks.

http://web.resourceshelf.com/go/resourceblog/63621

### Make Sharing a Priority

It's not about hoarding

## If you take a good picture . . . share it!



#### If you read a good book . . .

. . . share it!

www.goodreads.com



• ... or



### If you see a good film . . .

... share it!

http://imdb.com



### If you hear a good tune, share it!



#### Create and share playlists



#### If you see a good video . . .

... share it!

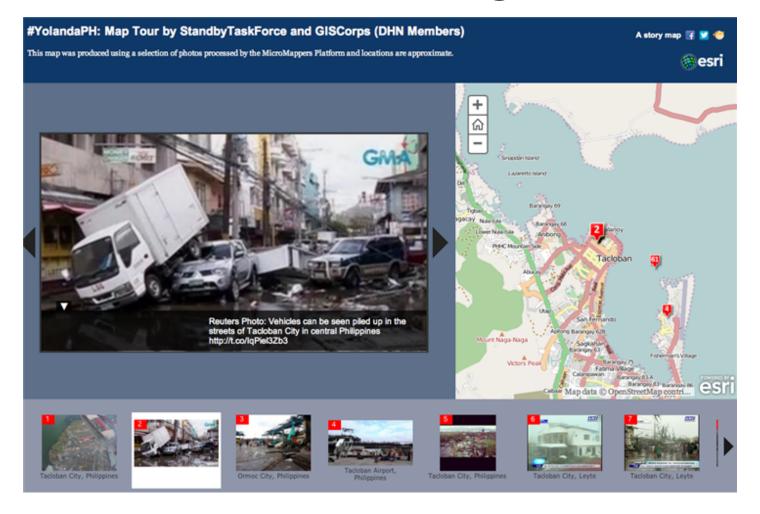


#### Setting up Twitter Feed for Your Class

- Tweeting out great examples of student work to a worldwide audience
- Last names and pictures of students aren't used (unless there is a parent-signed release form)

#### Using Twitter to Follow World Events

# Recent Typhoon Volunteers Rate Damage in Tweets



## Facebook post Spurs Ukrainian revolt November 21, 2013

Mustafa Nayem



### If You Don't Have Much Technology

 Do face-to-face activities that involve principles of digital reading and writing and social networking (especially when the classroom is "flipped"). (See Chapter 2 of *The* Socially Networked Classroom, by William Kist)

- Snowball activity: Discussion of blogging and audience
- Birthday/sequencing activity: discussion of nonlinearity

### Blog as Learning Log

#### **EVAN'S MULTI-MODAL BLOG**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

#### **Little Victories**

"This time, I'll be sailing."

So, that's it. The semester's over, and I only have one left. I think it's fitting to close out with Matt Nathanson's "Little Victories." I've been anxiously awaiting this final week.

This particular class has been an interesting ride for me, more so than any of the others. I've learned a lot about myself as a writer, teacher and person. I've learned that if I allow myself too much room to think, I'll be engulfed. I learned how to clear up enough time in a day to have for myself. I learned how to push past writing obstacles and just write. I learned that I won't be a terrible teacher. Of course, I've learned interesting and unique ways to teach; and I've used some of those strategies already.

Aside from learning that I hate people who drive, I think the

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**BLOG ARCHIVE** 

- ▼ 2009 (43)
  - ▼ December (4)

Little Victories

Year of the Black Rainbow

#### Move from Blogging to Micro-blogging

- Twitter
- Facebook
- Pinterest

#### Create an Account for your Class

- Create a Twitter account for a class you're teaching.
   Example from Marty Jencius for his Psychopath class: @CHDSPsycho
- Have students set up accounts if they don't have them and follow each other and the class account
- Require students to post a link to something related to class X times per week
- Require students to "Reply" to X number of students per week, plus the class account



#### youthvoices

I'm posting a few days late, (a lot of days late) but it does serve me one advantage: I have seen the first round ... http://bit.ly/9HPAQn

7 minutes ago from twitterfeed

Lately, life has been pretty stressful. With school, sports, friends and family I feel like I don't have enough ti... http://bit.ly/aLBnPP

39 minutes ago from twitterfeed

i just wanna be successful http://bit.ly/9aSy7z

about 1 hour ago from twitterfeed

i wanna be successful and happy http://bit.ly/cPFwnS

about 1 hour ago from twitterfeed

Name Youth Voices Location Global

Web http://youthvoice...

Bio Youth Voices is a meeting place where students share, distribute and discuss their digital work online. Contact: @paulallison

1,051 962 14 following followers listed

Tweets 9,593

Favorites

#### Following



## Create your own hashtag event

Invite outsiders to attend

See if you can get "experts" to attend and reply

## Twitter as Back Channel

Use the pound sign (aka "hash tag") for your class

#kistnewlit

## Use Facebook at School

- Get permission from administrators and, probably, Board
- Communicate with parents

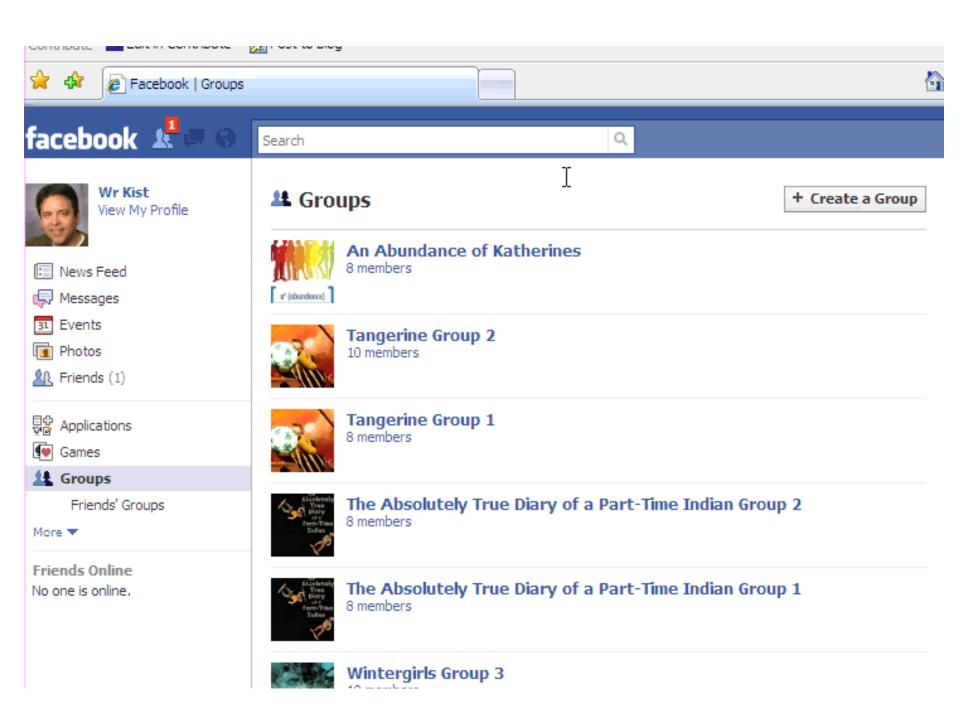
## Steps of Facebook Project

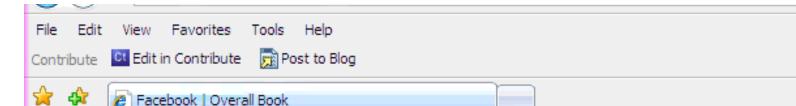
- Discuss with students the difference between a personal and professional Facebook account.
- Have students set up a professional Facebook account.
- Teacher should set up a professional Facebook account as well.

- Students should use first names only or pseudonyms.
- Students should use avatars—any picture other than their own.
- Teacher sets up groups within Facebook for various purposes.

## Groups in Facebook

- Teacher and students form writing groups and comment on each other's writing.
- Teacher and students form literature circles to discuss books.







#### Wdp Frerilsd wrote

on November 13, 2009 at 6:12am

Report

Post #1

Post your feelings on the overall book now that we're finished with it.



#### Wdp Frerilsd wrote

on November 13, 2009 at 6:33am

Report

Post #2

I really enjoyed the overall book, it was a pretty easy read and it wasn't boring at all either. At times it was a little predictable but other times it was totally unpredictable. The book analyzed all the main characters really well and showed different sides of each of them. I never really knew what was coming next, which is always a good thing in reading a book. The beginning started off a little bit slow but it took off quickly after that. I also liked how it did "flashbacks" almost. It would go back to past memories either with Hassan and Colin's friendship or Colin's relationships with Katherines. It was easier to understand the characters' feelings when you knew what happened in their past and how that could've effected their feelings.



Wdp Geyer wrote

on November 13, 2009 at 7:25am

Report

Post #3

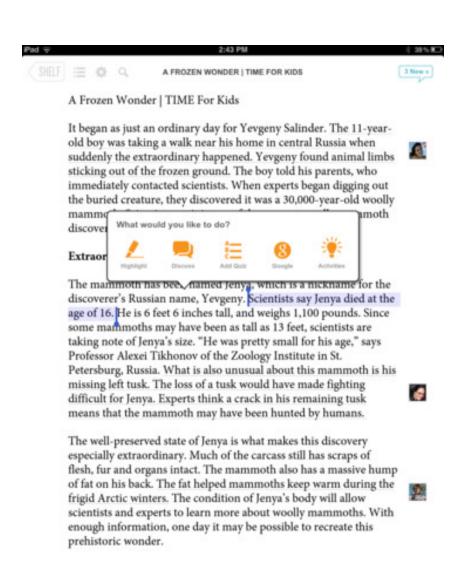
I somewhat enjoyed the overall book. At times, I felt as though it was a really quick read, and at other times, I felt as though the pages just kept getting longer and more boring. I liked how Colin used events that were currently happening to him to reflect back on his past girlfriends named Katherine. I also thought it was clever how there were footnotes at just about every page also. Most of the time, I felt that they were extremely helpful, because there were times where some of the things Colin said made absolutely no sense to me.

# If you don't want to be on the Internet, use other free learning management systems

- Collaborize
- Edmodo.com
- Schoology.com
- Sophia.org
- Open Class (Google)
- Blackboard/Learn
- Blendspace.com
- Moodle

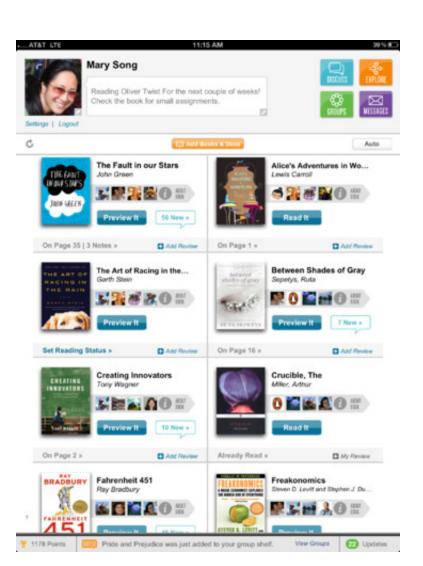
Use Apps for Annotating ("Close Reading")

## Subtext



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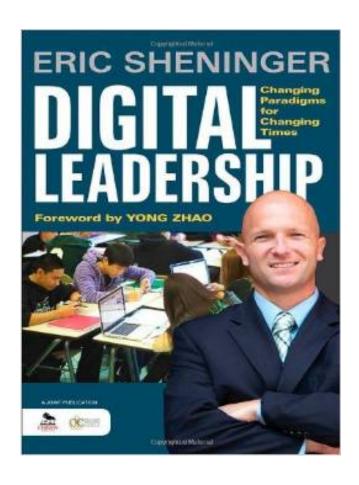
## Apps for Self-Curating and Exhibiting Learning



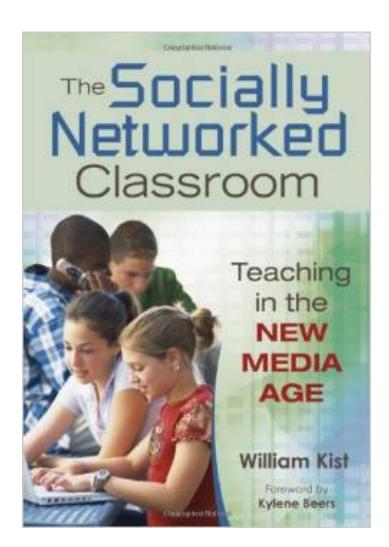
- "Capture Anything"
- "Access Anywhere"
- "Find Things Fast"



## Schools Using Social Media



Eric Sheninger (@E\_Sheninger)
 Spotswood, NJ
 Systemic use of social media



## **Contact Information**

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