



LOW HANGING FRUIT

Social Media for Learning

By Gina Persichini

There's no shortage of tools to use inside and outside of the classroom to support learning. The challenge is building awareness of the tools and how they might work so when an opportunity arises, you can make use of it. Social media should be among the tools in the toolbox. Vicki Davis writes in [A Guidebook for Social Media in the Classroom](#) on the edutopia blog, "Don't mistake *social media* for *socializing*. They're different—just as kids talking as they work in groups or talking while hanging out are different."

How a tool is implemented in the classroom will impact how the students use it. Tools like Instagram, Snapchat, Flickr, Facebook, and Twitter can be used to share photos. Students may already be using them to share photos in personal networks. Consider a closed group in which students in a class can share photos of leaves, rocks, and landscapes for an environmental sciences project.

Here's a great example: a high school teacher in Florida involved her class in using Twitter around a mock trial of William Shakespeare in response to allegations he did not write his own plays. Students took on personas of trial lawyers, researchers, and historic figures. They carried these personas to Twitter where they debated each other and shared information leading up to the trial. On the day of the trial they live-Tweeted the proceedings. The entire event created an engaging, blended learning experience.

Self-described Educational Evangelist Steven Anderson blogs about utilizing social media in the classroom. "We could redefine how they were being used by kids and, at the same time, have embedded conversations about how they should be used appropriately," he says in [Changing Our Views on Social Media For Learning](#). The point is not to start using all the tools in all the classrooms. Rather, get to know what is being used by the students and be open to opportunities to extend classroom learning to the networks where students live their digital lives.

Social engagement in the education process does not have to take place in wide-open spaces. In fact, alternative tools are available that provide safe and closed spaces in which students can be introduced to social networking. Try sites like [Edmodo](#), [Edublogs](#), or [ClassTools](#) to explore the options available.



LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



10 Great Ways to Use Social Media in Classroom

<http://www.teacherswithapps.com/10-great-ways-to-use-social-media-in-classroom/>

Do Texting and Facebook Belong in the Classroom?

http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/archives/technology/social_media_in_classroom.shtml

Facebook in Education

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/education/notes/>

How to Use Social Media in the Classroom

<http://www.theedadvocate.org/how-to-use-social-media-in-the-classroom/>

Web 2.0 Connected Classroom

<http://blog.web20classroom.org>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Link to Google Classroom from Explora!

Your school has access to Explora Primary and Explora Secondary through the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) service. Explora is a research database to find primary source materials, articles, and other content to support classroom activities. The Google Classroom link is available when viewing the content.

Selecting the Google Classroom link will prompt you to login to your Google account if you aren't already. Then, within Google Classroom, you will select a Class and an Action to share your article.



DIGITAL TOOLS



These tools from LiLI provide easy links to social networks and for sharing with classes:

All tools: Create bookmarks with a permalink to send links to students via email or website.

Ebscohost: Link to Google Classroom

Explora interfaces: link to Google Classroom

Gale Virtual Reference Library: link to Google Drive, create

Get to know LiLI's Tools for Schools at <http://guides.lili.org/ToolsForSchools>



