

## Exploring Social Media for Teaching and Learning (Session Overview)

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### Introduction to Social Media

The web has seen a recent explosion of tools that facilitate interaction and exchange between individuals and groups. Now nearly everyone with Internet access and freely available software can communicate with text, images, audio and video to audiences that comment, vote, rank, exchange, link, share and connect. The web has become social and participatory. In a buffet-style approach, this session will provide a general introduction to web-based social media tools and explore emerging practices that are [re]shaping our understanding of modern media and its role in teaching and learning.

By the end of this session you should be able to:

- Identify several examples of social media on the web.
- Describe social practices that have contributed to an emerging participatory culture on the web.
- Identify potentially meaningful uses of social media to support learning.

### Key Questions

- What instructional advantages / disadvantages might there be in employing social media in the classroom?
- How are today's students using social media to support formal and informal learning?
- To what extent should educators understand social media practices as a means of enhancing learning?

Resources for this session can be found here:

<http://teachlearntech.wetpaint.com/page/Exploring+Social+Media>

### *Sampling Items @ the social media buffet*

- Open Access Resources and Collaboration
  - The case of Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
  - Educational uses of wikis <http://ltc.umanitoba.ca/wiki/Connectivism>
  - Conference participation <http://educon21.wikispaces.com/>
  - Wiki as course space: <http://anth618.wetpaint.com/>

- Web-based Publishing / Commenting
  - Blogs (text) - <http://edinsanity.com/>
  - Flickr (images) - <http://www.flickr.com/>
  - SlideShare (presentations) - <http://www.slideshare.net/bwatwood>
  - YouTube (video) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xg2MukcqbDE>
  
- Web-based Resource Sharing
  - Social bookmarking - <http://delicious.com/jnugent>
  - Resource ranking - <http://digg.com/>
  - Remixing / RSS - [http://www.netvibes.com/jeffnugent#Social Media Feeds](http://www.netvibes.com/jeffnugent#Social_Media_Feeds)
  
- Making Connections / Building Networks
  - Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com>
  - Twitter - <http://twitter.com/JeffNugent>
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  - Yammer - <http://www.yammer.com>
  - Ning - <http://www.ning.com/>
    - College 2.0 - <http://college2.ning.com/>
  
- Social Media and Education
  - Social media at VCU: <http://www.socialmedia.vcu.edu/>
  - Social Media Classroom - <http://socialmediaclassroom.com/>
  - Participatory Media Literacy - <http://www.socialtext.net/medialiteracy/index.cgi>
  - Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21st Century <http://is.gd/hjjq>
  - Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project <http://is.gd/hjkz>

### Thoughts, Questions, Notes