

Asynchronous tools for Globalized Learning

Utilizing Digital Technology and Its Ability to Unite Global Classrooms

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Globalized Learning

- Emerging approach to expanding or replacing study abroad programs
- Method of adding global perspectives to courses
- Globally networked classes
- Intercultural collaborative learning environment
- Uses video conferencing and new media

Why?

- To offer students a significant cross-cultural experience.
- To add perspectives to the classroom discussion.
- To offer a viable alternative to study abroad in challenging economic times.
- To put a human face on “the other.”



Tools for building a learning environment

- Educational Platforms
- Free Websites
- Blogs
- Wikis
- Twitter
- Facebook

All interactivity is not equal.

- Does it serve your goals?
 - Pedagogical
 - Social
- Is it manageable?
- Is it easy to use?

What We Did

- **Blackboard**
 - Posting Materials and Resources
- **Wikispaces**
 - Threaded Discussions in Groups
 - Images of Peace
 - Stories of Peace
- **Student-initiated communication**
 - Facebook
 - Skype
 - Email with experts

Benefits and Challenges

- **Threaded Discussions**

- Leads to more reflective responses
- Encourages research
- Ensures engagement by all (when graded)
- Enhances understanding of second-language users
- Builds a sense of community
- Facilitates learning when students see each other's work
- Develops thinking and writing skills
- Requires strong structure and instructor involvement
- Demands significant time investment of instructor

Benefits and Challenges

- **Using images and stories**

- Breaks down stereotypes
- Develops/showcases creative skills
- Provides prompt for more conversation
- Creates opportunity for more in-depth conversation
- Technical issues arise (compatibility, learning curve, etc.)

What we've learned

- Try it; the technology is getting easier
- Develop clear instructions and structure
- Set clear expectations about requirements, deadlines and grading (rubrics, calendars, etc.)
- Assess quality as well as quantity of posts
- Make yourself visible
- Be flexible.

Wonderful Wiki Moments

- Images of Peace
- Our Stories



Thank you.