



## Facebook, Google Hangouts, & Tweets, Oh My! Social Media in the Classroom

Linda S. Ralston, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of Utah



## Agenda

- Why Connect?
- Connectedness in Learning
- A Vision of Students Today
- Digital Natives and Learning
- Social Media
- Learning Connections Examples
- Questions and Contacts





## Connect Today

- PPT Notes on [www.lindaralston.com](http://www.lindaralston.com)
- Hashtag **#UofUCTLE** for today's teaching symposium

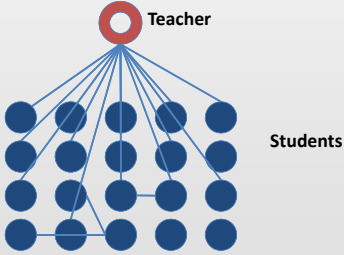




## Why Connect? Your Feedback

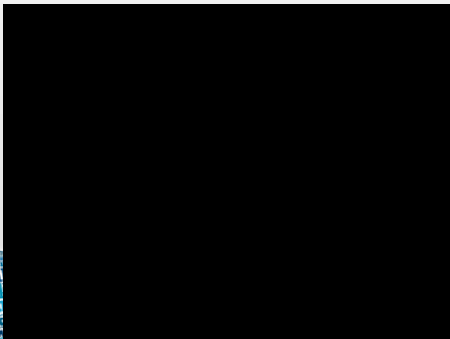

- Why do you think we should promote our students connecting – collaborating in the classroom and outside the classroom?
- Tweet your response using **#UofUCTLE**

## Traditional Learning Environment

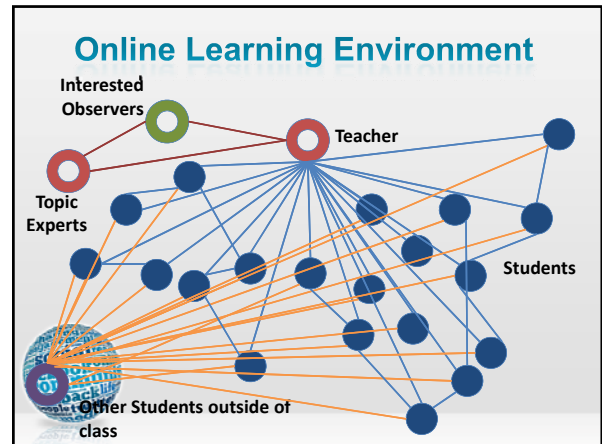
## A Vision of Students Today

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom

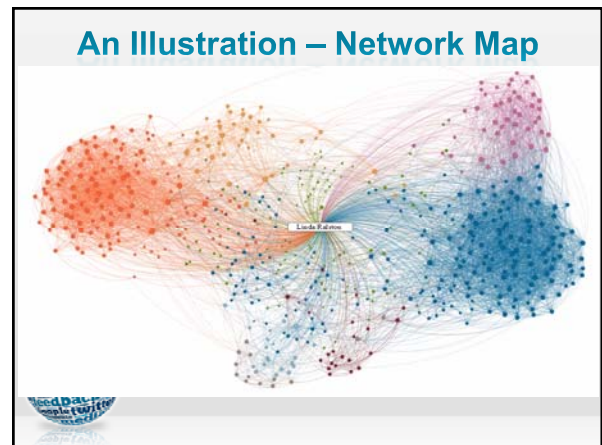
- **Digital Natives:**
  - Prefer to interact/ network simultaneously with many others
  - Prefer parallel processing & multitasking
  - Prefer processing pictures, sounds, & video before reading text.

The graphic shows two silhouettes of heads. The left head is labeled 'Digital Native' and has a colorful, multi-colored brain. The right head is labeled 'Digital Immigrant' and has a blue brain. A word cloud to the left contains terms like 'social', 'facebook', 'community', 'feedback', and 'twitter'.



### An Illustration

The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of Linda Ralston (@DrLindaRalston). Her bio reads: 'Global Citizen/Traveler, Learner facilitating learning in Tourism, Hospitality, Social Media, Customer Service, eMarketing, & Photoshop. Opinions are my own! Salt Lake City, Utah ulourdoz.com'. She has 2,052 tweets, 966 following, and 554 followers. A tweet from her is visible, asking about social media use in the classroom.



### Why Connect? Your Feedback

- Why do you think we should promote our students connecting - collaborating in the classroom and outside the classroom?
- Tweet your response using **#UofUCTLE**

The graphic features a blue Twitter bird holding a wooden sign with the word 'twitter' written on it. A word cloud is visible in the background.

### Why Connect? Responses

- Because connection underpins basic communication
- Because we are curious beings
- Because it allows us to expand boundaries
- Because technology affords us the ability to connect

The graphic features a blue Twitter bird holding a wooden sign with the word 'twitter' written on it. A word cloud is visible in the background.



**twitter - Chats**

**TweetChat**

Welcome back! Here's how to use TweetChat:

- 1 Sign in to TweetChat.**  
Sign up with Twitter if you don't have an account. Our login securely authenticates you with Twitter. Once authenticated, you will be returned directly to TweetChat. If you ever want to sign in as a different user, sign out at Twitter and return to TweetChat.
- 2 Choose hashtag to follow.**  
Hashtags identify specific topics and those hashtags allow TweetChat to connect you with people talking about similar things. TweetChat helps put your blunders on to the Twitter-sphere while you monitor and chat about one topic. Choosing a hashtag room you to a TweetChat room.
- 3 Converse in real-time.**  
Each tweet automatically gets the hashtag added and the room auto-updates. You can use the "User Control" area to feature people you like or to block spammers. "Smart pausing" has been added so when you scroll down the page, it will not refresh, helping you avoid replying to the wrong person.

TweetChat.com is brought to you by Internet Media Labs and is powered by one2cube. Follow us on Twitter today! @TweetChat

**twtpoll** <http://twtpoll.com/>

- #poll Which forms of social media have you used in the classroom?  
<http://twtpoll.com/r69622>
- Respond now to the question!

**Blogs – What are they?**

- Online diary style website
- Quick and easy web publishing
- Offer instant communication
- Require little technical knowledge

**Blogs in the Classroom**

- Class Pages
- Professor-authored blogs relate to the theme of the course
- Reflection on the Readings
- Student-authored blogs

ALT-Home, ALT-Home, Latest, General Information, Programs, Papers, Booking

**But it's not a 'proper' blog is it? Tangled weblogs as spaces for transformational stories of learning and teaching.**

by Ms Julie Hughes [Theme Timetable for "Next generation learning"](#) | [Full Conference Timetable](#)

This short paper will consider and showcase the development of critically reflective practitioners within a community of practice (Lave and Wenger 1991, Wenger et al 2005) of pre-service teachers utilising the blogging tool within an ePortfolio. The case study will focus upon a group of new teachers at the University of Wolverhampton and their use of a weblog as transformational learning space. The possibilities created for digital storytelling and pedagogical conversations within this learning landscape it is suggested may produce engaged next generation learners and teachers.

Blogs, as web communication tools, and community landscapes are well established. However, their use as a technological learning space within professional programmes such as Teacher Education within the United Kingdom is under theorised and under examined. This paper will contribute to this debate by considering how a reflective community may be created, fostered and exploited.

Wenger et al's (2005: 1) recent work focuses upon 'communities... and the technologies they use to create a sense of togetherness'. This work offers an interesting and important extension of the community model by exploring how communities and technologies may shape each other. Following Wenger leads us to question explicitly the role of the technology, the ePortfolio and weblog, as fostering and supporting the community and their reflective practices.

As a Higher Education teacher who is actively seeking to exploit technology as a community-learning tool, Wenger's work offers exciting multiple readings of the 'everyday use' of technology in learning. The vital emphasis upon the community and technology as 'experienced' offers an opportunity to explore the relationship and mediations as participant.

The use of a community of practice model to promote reflection is fraught with tensions and this paper will consider and illustrate how a community might reflexively understand the tensions inherent within their community and within their use of technology.

**Student Blog's response to Free Trade**

**FREE TRADE TRAVEL IN SOUTHERN INDIA**

03/01/2013 1 Comment

Because Bengal Tigers are most commonly found in India, it is important to know how the best way to travel in India; via Fair Trade tour. [Responsiblevacation.com](#) allows travelers the opportunity to take a 16-day tour of Southern India in a responsible manner. According to [responsiblevacation.com](#), "Guests get to see how certain products are made, who grows the coffee they drink or weaves the basket that sits on their mantelpiece, and the producers really enjoy seeing the people who buy their wares and how valued their products are." What an awesome experience!

**Fair Working Conditions:** When in the tour guide Ranjith's home village, guests are treated to a meal cooked at his home by his wife, Rani. This allows guests the experience of authentic Indian cuisine without visiting a restaurant where employees travel to the site to cook and wait on customers. Here, the guests are going to the home of the cook, requiring no travel for Rani.

**Fair Prices:** At \$2,397 for 16 days, or \$150 a day, this company is looking more to provide you with an experience rather than take your money. In the US, you can hardly get a hotel for that much, still leaving you to pay for food, transportation and the day's activities!


## del.icio.us – What is it?

- Social Bookmarking website
- Save and store bookmarks online
- Organize them with tags or keywords
- Be social – follow other bookmarkers and send / receive links



## del.icio.us in Education

- Keeping the same set of bookmarks if using more than one computer
- Organize collection of resources around an agreed tag – i.e., Social Media in Education
- Develop a network and share the course load – study groups for a class project




## Facebook Groups/Group Chat




<http://pinterest.com/utourdoctor/boards/>

## Pinterest for Education

- International Tourism class



Save The Rhino! An awareness video submitted in fulfillment of a course requirement for the University of Utah's PRT 5610 International Tourism. Help save the rhino. Created by Sean McKenna. Check out his blog at prt5610dmckenna.we...

Antarctica is slowly melting and there are many ways we can travel and practice different techniques to be more sustainable to keep Antarctica from melting.

Uploaded by Leiligha Dangertfield

BENGAL TIGERS  
1 TIGER 25,000  
SAVE THE BENGAL TIGERS  
WHY TIGERS ARE DISAPPEARING

Author by Krystal Schultz

## Pinterest for Education

- Electronic Marketing class

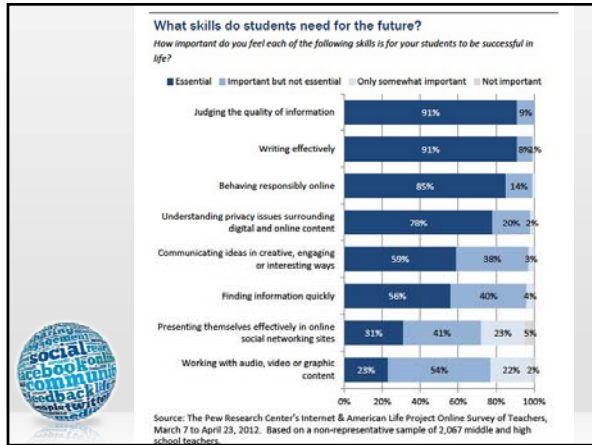
www.hattrips.com

## Google+

Happy Birthday Linda!

Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky

New! Textbooks on Google Play. Take your books with you anywhere you go #backtoschool



## Questions and Contact Info

- Presentation Notes & Links:
  - [www.lindaralston.com/](http://www.lindaralston.com/)
- Email:
  - [Linda.Ralston@health.utah.edu](mailto:Linda.Ralston@health.utah.edu)
- CTLE 6510/651-90 Cyber Pedagogy (3 credit hrs) taught Fall and Spring Semester