Web 2.0 Tools for Civic and Global Engagement

Summary
Whereas the old web allowed students to be consumers of media and information, the new web provides opportunities for students to be information producers. This presentation will introduce a variety of Web 2.0 tools and their application to civic engagement and the study of global events. Sample assignments from courses in communications, the arts, and social sciences will be provided. The audience will be given the opportunity to collaborate on the design of an activity, using an example from the campus program in which the panelists participate, a yearly focus on an area of the globe.

Civic and Community Engagement
Photojournalism & Community: Lori Hepner Sharing Information About Social Issues Through Video & Blogging: Margaret Signorella

Teaching International
Social Bookmarking: Margaret Signorella Video Blogging: Lori Hepner

Global Engagement
Visual Sociology: Verónica Montecinos Student Created Website: Kathleen Taylor Brown

Teaching International:
We focus each year on a region of the world and on a theme that complements the region we are studying. This year’s focus is Latin America and the Caribbean and the theme is Food Security.

Civic and Global Engagement:
The campus has a commitment to involving students, faculty, and staff in community issues. We also offer the CIVCOM minor.

Photojournalism & Community Engagement
Students in Photo100 work on a photojournalism project where they are paired with a local community organization in order to create a picture story. The students are required to work with the organization over the course of multiple visits in order to understand the mission of what goes on. The sequence of eight images is given back to the community organization to use for the promotion of their activities in the region. Some students have gone the extra step of creating an iMovie slideshow that include more than eight images that were paired with their captions.

Photo taken by Mark Bachner at Habitat for Humanity (see right).

Visual Sociology
International themes and civic engagement were combined in an assignment.

The purpose of the assignment is to help you learn about social problems in Latin America and the Caribbean and the role that the Millennium Development Goals play in improving human well-being in the region.

These are some relevant sources of information:
- www.millenniumcampaign.org (visit the MDG YOUTH page www.illenniumcampaign.org/youth
- www.whiteband.org
- www.un.org/mdg/countryreports.html
- www.worldbank.org
- www.un.org
- www.eclac.org
- www.wfp.org
- www.unicef.org
- www.paho.org

Visual Sociology:
Project
This is an exercise in visual sociology. You will use photographs, maps, tables and figures to present the information gathered in a clear and inspiring way. Your objective is to motivate your audience to learn more about social problems in the country you chose and get involved in solving them.

1) First slide: title of your presentation, your name and date
2) Second slide: country map
3) Next slide: country’s basic socioeconomic statistics (population, poverty rate, etc.)
4) Next slide: report of MDGs in selected country
5) Next 2 slides: MDG – Goal One in selected country:
   a) 4 relevant photos (include the source of the photos)
   b) what is being done to achieve Goal One by 2015?
   c) what else needs to be done to help the country achieve this goal?
6) Next 2 slides will refer to either Goal 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6:
   a) 4 photos relevant to the goal you selected (include the source of the photos)
   b) what is being done to achieve the goal you selected (include the source of the photos)
   c) what is being done to help the country achieve this goal?
7) Next slide: summarize what you think are your most important findings
8) Final slide: list the references used

Suggested means for engaging other students included surveying and interviewing students about their topic.
One group chose to address gender stereotyping and both surveyed and interviewed students (video available for viewing here). The other group’s topic was feminism. They first asked their fellow students “Are you a feminist?” (see left). Then, they provided the students with a definition of feminism from the literature to see if anyone changed—some did, and some did not.
An attempt was also made to engage the students in discussion on the instructor’s blog. When a relevant issue would be raised in class, a description and some supporting information was posted on the blog. This method did not, however, prove effective, probably because there was no credit attached.

Blogging and Creating Videos About Global Art
Students in InArt100 went to see an exhibition of Latin American Photography, Martin Weber, at Silver Eye Center for Photography entitled, “A Map of Latin American Dreams.” The photographs were portraits of people from different countries in their surroundings where the individuals had written their dreams on a small chalkboard, which was also included in the image.
After the exhibition, students blogged about how the photographs showed the dreams of the subjects in the photographs on the course blog, http://www.inart100.blogspot.com. The students were then tasked at creating group video projects that showed the viewer their dreams. The dreams of the students varied: earning a B.A. degree before an upcoming 80th birthday, dunking a basketball, becoming an artist, owning a trucking company, to being a sports journalist.

The students uploaded their completed videos to the course blog via YouTube so that others could share in their dreams.

Social Bookmarking

Social bookmarking for Teaching International
- Created an account on delicious.com (PSUGA_TI) to be shared by classes involved in Teaching International
- Tags suggested for the themes and countries being studied
- Bookmarks displayed on PSUGA Library website and on faculty website

- Latin America and Caribbean Bookmarks
- www.unicef.org
- www.iadb.org
- www.iadb.org/sociometro/index.html
- www.wfp.org
- www.unicef.org
- www.paho.org

Student Created Website
Promoting Global Engagement
Communications students have been working for a few semesters on developing a student focused website for Teaching International that also addresses Civic and Community Engagement. Some of the features of the website include: calendar of events, blogs, and student projects. The students have also created a Facebook Group that highlights the events that the students are most interested in attending.

Sharing Information About Social Issues Through Video & Blogging
Students chose an area of research that interested them from the broader category of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. They were asked to create a video that would communicate their chosen area of research to other students, while citing the appropriate literature.

Are You A Feminist?

This poster was first presented at the Symposium for Teaching and Learning with Technology, April 2009, University Park, PA.