

Fostering Engaged Learners and Teachers

Building Social Networks in the Real and Virtual World

Susan Owusu, Director of Communications and Media Literacy, Wheelock College

ABSTRACT

Communication tools have always served to help us interact, but the recent explosion of social media leaves many of us wondering if we really are more connected. This session will examine the impact that the proliferation of social media has played in shaping students and classrooms. We will explore ways to make interactivity on the web and in the classroom work for you and your students. Participants will learn specific strategies turning social media and interactive games from entertaining distractions to power classroom tools that increase connectivity and improve learning.

SUGGESTED PRACTICES

- *Conquer your fear and assumptions about social networking—try out new formats and discover what element of social networking resonate most with you and with your students*
- *Make your classroom a dynamic moving environment by adding interactive exercises*
- *Observe the ways that communication expectations—not just the channels, but the norms and habits-- have changed and update your own communication strategies*

LINKS AND REFERENCES

*Find tons of great adaptable exercises for groups at <http://wilderdom.com/games/>
What are some of the implications of social networking in academia? Some useful info for all in here and some close up on pharmacy education:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2254235/>*