

Utilizing Outside Resources to Enhance your Classroom

No matter what tool you use in your online classroom it is about student engagement and synergistic learning. The role of the instructor in online learning is connecting the content to bring it to life. In online learning this can be lost if not designed properly. It is important be intentional about the content and the scaffolding of the material. Using outside resources can enhance the learning experience for the student. There are several tools and resources that can be utilized to enrich your course. Below are a few that can be used:

- Blogs (WordPress or LMS Blog) A unique way for students to reflect and journal about their learning.
- McGraw Hill Connect provides a platform with activities, case studies, and interactive presentations.
- SmartBook is a digital version of your course textbook. It contains the same content but it tailors the content to your individual needs of the student.
- Cengage Learning MindLinks Building Block provides seamless access to several Cengage digital products, including CourseMate and MindTap, directly within Blackboard Learn.
- Pearson MyLab provides tools and resources to bridge the content in text.

As instructors, it's important for us to understand that there is so much more to students than the life they lead in class, and it is important to show interest in a student and connect the content to their life. These tools can assist to make that connection.

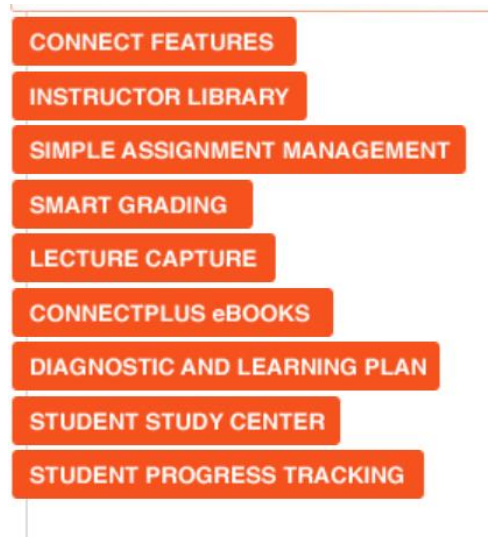
It is a bit of a shift in your paradigm in terms of how you get the same concepts in a face to face class in the online setting. One professor stated "I don't teach definitions anymore. I get right into analysis, news articles, and discuss the things that are exciting!" I let Connect® teach the basics, so I can be the educational expert I trained to be." You can use these integrative tools to foster a dynamic learning environment in the online classroom. Each tool has its pros and cons so figure out which one best suits you as an instructor.

Some pros of using the resources:

- Cases and activities in one place and fully integrated into LMS platform.
- Different types of tools for the students to use based on their learning needs
- Ability to capture diagnostics of students that may be struggling in your class.
- Easy of grading for faculty—grades automatically placed into the Blackboard gradebook
- Extends learning beyond the classroom for students

Some cons:

- Technology glitches and it is not perfect



- Sometimes the platforms do not speak to one another and information is lost
- Students have a hard time figuring it out at first—steep learning curve in the beginning of the class
- Some platforms have greater resources than others—do your homework before launching.

Sample of Blackboard Folder with Homework Assignments

McGraw-Hill Connect Homework Assignments



This folder contains links to all of the Connect assignments:

- Chapter Assessment
- Case Analysis

All of them are auto-graded in Connect and required.



Sample of Connect Site with Homework Assignments

Assignments [+ Add Assignment](#)

Title	Shared	Info	Start-due	Show/hide	Deployed
<----- Drop an assignment here to remove from a group ----->					
Chapter 1 The Exceptional Manager: What You Do, How You Do It					
The Exceptional Manager What You Do, How You Do It			none-9/5/2018		
Chapter 1 Self-Assessments			8/25/2018-9/5/2018		
Chapter 2 Management Theory: Essential Background for the Successful Manager					
Management Theory Essential Background for the Successful Manager			none-9/5/2018		
Case Analysis: Google: Modern Management			8/25/2018-9/5/2018		
Chapter 2 Self Assessments			8/25/2018-9/5/2018		
Chapter 3 The Manager's Changing Work Environment and Ethical Responsibilities					

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Sections and colleagues

eBook
Management (SmartBook)
Angelo Kinicki, 8e

Kinicki, Management: A Practical Introduction, 8e 1259732657 (eBook)
Angelo Kinicki, 8e

Section web address:
<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/k->

[Upload syllabus](#)

my course resources