Chapter 1
The Digital Communication Journal: Building an Online COMMunity for Student Dialogue

Steven D. Cohen
University of Baltimore, USA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The digital communication journal assignment challenges students to write and respond to online posts that examine the connections between course concepts and their own academic, personal, and professional experiences.

RATIONALE

Many communication instructors are interested in making written assignments more relevant to their students’ lives. Rather than tweaking the prompts, however, instructors should tweak the format. The emergence of digital tools has given birth to a generation of students that interact with one another and with the world in very different ways. Instructors can no longer rely on traditional approaches to connect with the “digital generation.” Instead, instructors have the opportunity (and responsibility) to align assignments with their students’ digital communication behaviors.

Although course syllabi often include traditional writing assignments (e.g., the group project reflection paper), students often complain that these assignments are “abstract” or “uninteresting.” Unlike typical written assignments, the digital communication journal assignment offers students a structured opportunity to connect what they are learning in the course with their out-of-class experiences.
Related Content

Synchronous Text-Based Computer-Mediated Communication Tasks and the Development of L2 Academic Literacy
[www.igi-global.com/article/synchronous-text-based-computer-mediated/76904?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/article/synchronous-text-based-computer-mediated/76904?camid=4v1a)

Supporting Learner Reflection in the Language Translation Class
[www.igi-global.com/chapter/supporting-learner-reflection-language-translation/25510?camid=4v1a](www.igi-global.com/chapter/supporting-learner-reflection-language-translation/25510?camid=4v1a)
The Impact of Four Reading Motivational Constructs on Motivating EFL Learners to Read Online Texts in English
www.igi-global.com/article/impact-four-reading-motivational-constructs/77627?camid=4v1a

The Role of Translation in Language Teaching: Back to GT in ELT?
Anna Maria D'Amore (2015). *Handbook of Research on Teaching Methods in Language Translation and Interpretation* (pp. 118-135).
www.igi-global.com/chapter/the-role-of-translation-in-language-teaching/120786?camid=4v1a