

My name is Deanna Mascle and I am here representing Morehead State University. I teach writers and writing teachers, direct the Morehead Writing Project, and run the MWP Writing Studio plus serve as the interim [soon-to-be-actual-maybe] College Readiness (Developmental Education) Coordinator at Morehead State University. I write and research writing pedagogy and teaching with technology. I [Tweet](#) and [Blog](#) and post to [Google+](#) about all these things and more.

I feel quite passionate about using social media for my personal growth and development as well as teaching. I am a teacher but I am also an NWP site leader which means I also support teacher development. In addition, as a researcher I am interested in the ways that Technology helps and hinders connections.

Why does this interest me? Why am I so passionate? First and foremost, social media allows me to connect with others who share my interests and passions. I work with only a few people who really think about teaching the way that I do and no one who shares my specific research interests. Worse, I teach online which means there are days I do not see my colleagues in the hallway or over the copy machine, but social media allows me to share triumphs, challenges, worries, or laughs - just socialize and make human connections. I enjoy that aspect of SM but I really love how SM challenges the way that I think about teaching, learning, and research. People share casually and deliberately through comments or posts, blog posts and articles, and videos and other methods. Conversations and debates spontaneously occur at all times of day and night. I believe SM has made me better - as a teacher, learner, researcher, and leader.

As a teacher and leader, I use SM to create and sustain connections with and among my students and teachers. These connections are essential to learning but they also make our work together more fun. My students are constantly amazed at how tight knit we become for people who do not meet in person but that is the power of SM. I had a student this semester who began the class very resistant to my methods. She didn't like the organization or the assignments – and I don't think she liked me much either – but because we had a back channel where we could talk about our common interests and get to know each other as people - not just teacher-student - we were able to overcome her initial concerns and end the semester on a high note. Even better, my students have easy access to each other when I am not available and can help and support each other. SM gives them the access but also the comfort to use it.

Helping my students and teachers establish a SM presence and becoming comfortable with its use also helps us connect beyond our group. There are special interest

communities of all sorts on SM and I deliberately push my students to find and make these connections – especially those which support their professional goals. This is especially true of NWP work. NWP is a vast and powerful network and thanks to SM you can connect and share with teachers across the US.

I have charted much of my use of SM in the classroom as well as a teacher leader and personal leader on my personal blog and we have shared many of those links on our Storify collection so I will only give you a brief rundown now.

I earned my PhD through a distance learning program at Texas Tech. I think because our program was tech com & rhetoric we really took advantage of the social media tools available to us. While our instructors certainly used these tools we typically coopted them for our own purposes and regularly held back channel sessions while in class and held chats and meet ups outside of classes. We formed bonds, friendships, and support networks before ever meeting in person and that persist long after we finished classes and the program. Even more wonderfully through social media we have been able to expand these networks beyond TTU TCR cohorts to colleagues and friends of my TTU peers. That is in essence how it began for me and why today I am a daily presence on SM - Twitter, Facebook, and Google-Plus.

Because I knew SM was such a powerful force in my own learning, and because I knew that MSUs CMS BB was not designed for creating this sense of community, I began integrating SM into my classes. I believe very strongly in the importance of building community when teaching writing as well as its importance for simply learning. I never take creating community for granted and always integrate activities to create a sense of community in my classes. I began with Twitter but this academic year transitioned to Google-plus. Sometimes I use it simply as a backchannel but I have also created SM assignments. I have also participated in Edmodo for work with students as well as other teachers although it is not my network of choice. I do not use FB to teach - mostly because I want some space that is safe from students and I think that gets a little creepy treehouse but I do use FB for my work with other teachers. Last summer I taught a graduate seminar completely in Google and I intend to do it again this summer.

So that's me and what I do and I'm happy to share more and answer questions but first Lee will tell you a bit about who she is and how she uses SM. Then we will let you decide what we should do/discuss next.