

## INTEGRATING SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM

by:

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Social media networks such as Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, Twitter and Tiktok are very popular in the country. Nowadays social media is not only limited to posting pictures online or to connecting with random friends and strangers online, but it has also become a credible platform of educators in disseminating information. With the onset of Covid- 19 pandemic and closed schools, teachers rely on social media to communicate and interact with the students. Teachers consider social media as an indispensable part of students' lives. Millennials and Gen Z students cannot live without social media. Majority of these students own a smart phone and have a social media account. All these things being considered, teachers can take advantage of these social media platforms and integrate them into teaching. These social media networks could make teaching and learning more interactive and fun if facilitated properly. Here are some ways on how to integrate social media in the classroom:

### 1. Tiktok

Use Tiktok to enhance students' engagement in learning; to explain and to teach lessons; and to compare and to contrast ideas.

Tiktok makes learning fun and interesting. In her study, "Incorporating social media in the classroom", Solomon (2021) claims that Tiktok helps provide social emotional support for highly anxious students.

### 2. Facebook

Aside from using Facebook to post announcements and to share photos, videos, and links, use Facebook to enhance students' critical thinking skills through dialectical approach. Create a closed FB group page for the class and post thought provoking questions or debatable issues where students can post their informed opinions about the topic. According to Julie Prescott, a lecturer at University of Bolton, "teachers who do use Facebook in their teaching found more positives than negatives" thus, it enhances communication between teachers and students.

### 3. Blog

Create a blog page where students can post their creative writing outputs and essays. Blogging can improve students' skills in reading and writing. Ayden (2014) states that blogging enhances literacy and critical thinking skills.

### 4. Instagram

Use Instagram to practice students' digital storytelling skills by allowing them to post photo essays. According to Ramalia (2021), Instagram is suitable platform for writing classes. Similarly, Tarigan et al (2021) state that Instagram is an efficient choice for creative story telling among language learners.

Although social media have created a more engaging platform in teaching-learning process, but social media must not outweigh the disadvantages. Teachers must be critically aware of what social media app is applicable to their classroom setting. They must first assess the needs of their students and the context of their classrooms before integrating any social media in teaching and learning.

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