Designing Online Opportunities to Use With Your In-Person Class

You will have to have access to a computer lab to be able to do any of these with your class.

• Ask students to visit a news site such as cnn.com or yahoo.com. Have the students look at just the headlines from the current events articles. Ask them to report about what is happening in the world that day based on reading only the headlines. (Give them a time limit for reading the headlines, before the discussion of the day’s news begins.)

• Assign each student the name of a famous mathematician. Ask them to find a website with biographical information about that person. Ask students to skim just the first paragraph of the biographical information to find out why the person was famous. After a few minutes, have each student report their findings to the class. (This activity can be adapted to different disciplines by asking students to find scientists, learning theorists, artists, etc.)

• Choose a particular website in advance. Send students to that site and ask them to look only at the headings to get a basic understanding of what is presented there.

• Have students work in pairs. Direct each pair to an informational website that includes graphs, pictures, or tables. Have students look only at the visuals and report back to the class what the website might be addressing.

• Send students on a “scavenger hunt” to find subject-related information (trivia) such as who invented jell-o, who fought in the Battle of Hastings, what are the latest statistics on the number of U. S. students receiving bilingual education, or what is the date of the largest stock market crash.

• In the classified section of an online newspaper, have students find the price of three different types of pets for sale.

• Assign one of 49 states to each student (exclude Texas, because you assume they won’t have to look up everything). Ask each student to find the state motto, bird, and flower.

These activates can be used as homework to discuss during the next class period.

- Cartoons demand a certain level of cultural literacy from the reader. The HCC libraries have a database of historical cartoons. Students can also find websites featuring cartoons on the Internet. As homework, ask the students to bring in 3-4 cartoon examples for the next class period.

- Have students prepare a PowerPoint presentation using 3-5 slides. For example, a student success course presentation might showcase themselves. Hobbies, jobs, high school years, families, etc. can be included in the slides. Show the slides and discuss.

- Give your class an assignment to research their chosen occupation, for which they are obtaining a degree, and bring their findings to the next class. Have the students look for 1) demand for this profession 2) entry-level credential requirements 3) salary for entry-level employees 4) description of the work environment 5) other characteristics of the occupation. Discuss their findings in class.

- The mission statement for HCC is on page two of the HCC College Catalog. Have students bring a copy of the mission statement to the next class meeting along with a mission statement from another college of university. Have a discussion about the likenesses and differences among these.

- As homework, ask students to look for 2-3 examples of celebrities marketing products on TV or on the Internet in advertising. Divide the class into groups of 3-6 students. Ask them to discuss examples their findings. Ask the questions, "Does this type of advertising work for you?" and "Do you think that you make purchases that you wouldn't otherwise make because of these celebrity endorsements?"

- Ask your students to research one thing from the Internet in your discipline. During the next class period, have the students work in pairs and teach the information that they learned to their classmate. Monitor the pairs as they discuss their experiences; the object is that they come away from this activity knowing that you learn best what you teach.

- Ask the students to look up one student club or social organization from the HCC website. Encourage them to find one related to their desired field of study. Ask them to find the answer to these questions: 1) What is the purpose of the organization? 2) When does the organization meet? 3) Where does the organization meet? 4) Who is the current president of the organization? Discuss the results of this research.