

Learners are only two swipes away from Angry Birds!

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Students are already interacting with each other in a myriad of ways outside of the classroom, including social sites such as Facebook. These apps, however, allow us to take such interaction to a more focused level, where learning together becomes the modus operandi. Many mobile devices are created for the individual – leveraging tools and apps such as these can open the social media to the learning environment, turning these individual tools into places to make connections.



Other devices provide more specialised access to content, especially e-readers such as the Kindle or the Nook. When reading on a Kindle, for example, one can not only read a book, but tweet about it too. Reading becomes a social function. Students can access content across platforms and devices using the apps for some of these tools, and are able to stay up with their readings and interactions.



Content - Peers
Online content that specifically allows for mobile tools to access it can open up new ways discourse for students. An example may be to choose a Kindle-based text, and have Kindle users tweet as they read (using instructor or group designed hashtags).



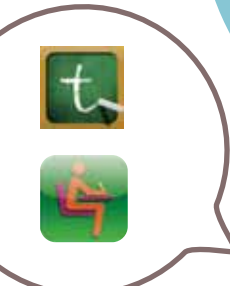
Many apps are now exploring the functionality of mobile devices. Some of these have been used in the classroom to explore the media of comics, literature and history. The Civil War Today pushes the idea of the subscription, with new content being delivered every day over the course of the 150th anniversary of the US Civil War. Al Gore's book app Our Choice is an example of the book form being enhanced by audio, visual, and instructional media to deliver a new reading experience. Is it the future of the text book?



Interaction with PEERS

Instructor - Peers (Students)
Immediate feedback through apps on your iDevice can set up a welcoming climate and an interactive and engaged learning experience for the student. It also shows the instructor is engaged and aware of students' activities and experiences.

Just two examples of many classroom management apps that allow the instructor to take attendance, manage group work and, with available wifi or 3G communicate with students via email.



Apps such as these can make classroom management a breeze, especially when they can take data from the LMS or SIS – when will they be able to send data back? Doceri and Mobi Boards can take interaction into the classroom, with students using mobile devices to interact with each other and with the class as a whole.

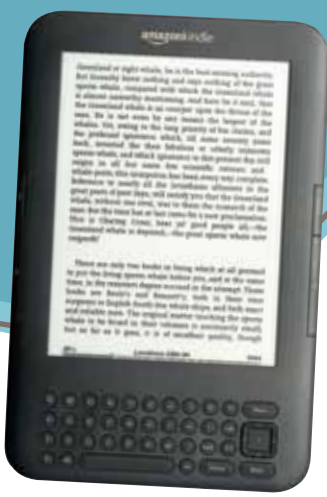


Interaction with INSTRUCTOR

Learning. Use Chickering and Gamson's Seven Principles (1987) and Chickering and Ehrman's Implementing the Seven Principles (1996) as guides to the appropriate use of mobile tools and apps.

Interaction with CONTENT

Instructor - Content
It is important to consider the kinds of content chosen for the course and how it will be delivered; knowing, for example, a certain book is available online can provide students with the opportunity to select that book over a print version.



The iPad and other tablets have not yet made a good transition to a replacement of the PC or even with a keyboard. But some of these apps show the potential of tablets especially in the Jobsian "post PC" world. Many of these apps allow note taking or writing, with Soundnote also adding in audio functionality (complete with bookmarking). Bb Mobile also requires an additional (and expensive) license to be able to access the LMS with such devices.

