Geo-blogging and Placed Based Learning

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TECHNOLOGY

Geo-blogging lets you geolocate a piece of writing or media to an exact point on a map providing an additional dimension to any journaling or blogging assignment. A global map lets viewers navigate the collected geotagged blog content via markers on a map.

PURPOSE

» Geo-blogging works as a natural companion to place-based learning assignments grounded in exploring the unique history, geology, culture, etc., of a place.

» Aggregation of student blogs to a central course site makes the work findable, and to a degree encourages accountability while building community among learners and potentially beyond to networked domain experts.

» Creating a global map of posts to view 'Where in the World' all of this learning is taking place connects the work and enables students to see the bigger picture.

PROCEDURE

1. Partner with your campus IT support to learn which geo-blogging technologies are available on your campus.

2. Have students create an individual travel/academic journal (blog).

3. Students geolocate each piece of writing or media to connect it to the place of study. Typically this is done within a blog post by dropping a pin on a map via a geo-blogging plugin.

4. Aggregate student journals to a single class blog to connect the work and create a global map to view all posts and the geolocations.

CONSIDERATIONS

» It's often best to have students create the site with support before they travel. Build in practice by journaling about the preparations necessary to undertake the trip.

» If student content is publicly viewable privacy issues need to be considered.

ADVANCED