eTools: Using Seelio in the Classroom

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Introduction

Emerging technologies such as e-Portfolios provide dynamic new opportunities for college students to display their work that extend beyond the traditional resume. Through the use of e-Portfolios, employers can assess students' academic work, skills, accomplishments, and personalities by viewing content that students choose to display. Garis (2007) explained that e-Portfolios enable students to communicate their career attributes to others as well as provide a personal web space where they can tell their digital story and self-reflect on their digital representation. One such e-Portfolio is Seelio, whose primary goal is to enable students to demonstrate the connections between their learning experiences and the 21st century skills sought by employers.

What is Seelio?

Seelio is an online digital portfolio where students can display their course projects, share their job or internship experiences, collaborate with other students on projects, and receive feedback from their classmates and instructors in a professional and visually appealing manner. Seelio differs from other e-Portfolios because students are able to post pictures, PowerPoint presentations, and videos of their projects; include robust descriptions of these projects; and use the collaboration tool to work with classroom group members on projects. And as an extension of the classroom, Seelio

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provides a venue where employers can view specific works selected by students through the provision of the URL of students' Seelio page. Because the Seelio staff manages the logistical challenges of the e-portfolios (e.g., program design, data reporting, and training), instructors can focus on student engagement and learning.

How can I get Seelio for use in the classroom?

To gain Seelio access for the classroom, you must first contact a representative at Seelio (http://www.seelio.com). Once you decide to implement it in your course, an Educational Services Lead (ESL; a Seelio employee) will create a class group in Seelio where you and your students can easily access each other's profiles and start collaboration. There is a fee, however, associated with implementing Seelio, which includes customer service and having the ESL work with you and your students. Though pricing depends upon the number of users, for a small to mid-sized academic department, the introductory price for Seelio services is around $5,000 per year.

How can I use Seelio in the classroom?

There are many innovative ways to implement Seelio in classroom. Specifically, Seelio can be used for:

1. *showcasing student work*. Seelio allows students to display and present their work in a professional, visually appealing way. Upon posting a project to Seelio, students can select an appropriate picture that captures the description of the project, write a detailed description of the project, and identify the skills they used to create the project.

Your academic department may also place links to students' Seelio projects on its departmental website.

2. *collaborating with group members on projects*. For class group projects, students can work together via Seelio by providing feedback to their group members. Students can place a project on Seelio, tag their group members to the project, and work collaboratively to complete the project before publishing it on Seelio. Posting the project once and tagging the group members allows for it to appear on all of the group members' pages when published. Group members can also write a section detailing their specific contribution to the project.

3. *helping students create a professional digital identity*. Students can build their own professional digital identity by selecting pictures and works that display their personality, strengths, and academic skills. Seelio also provides space for students to attach their resume and links to their social media accounts (e.g., LinkedIn). By being able to view students' projects, skills, and collaborations, potential employers will learn more about the personal brand of the student that goes beyond only reading their resume. Seelio also provides a space where students can provide a short description about themselves (i.e., the "about" section) and a space to list their specific professional skills and career interests. To benefit students on the job market, Seelio recently developed a partnership with HireOwl (http://www.hireowl.com), a website that employers utilize to post job vacancies.

4. *tagging learning objectives or learning outcomes.* Another benefit of Seelio includes the option to tag descriptive words of projects. To assist students with making the connection between their course projects and course learning outcomes, students can tag the exact course learning outcomes associated with a specific project. This tagging process also assists instructors and departments with their assessment efforts by enabling the incorporation of a new assessment technique beyond traditional assessment tools (i.e., tests and quizzes).

5. *viewing examples of other students' portfolios.* In lower-division courses where students are just starting with Seelio, instructors can encourage students to view and assess portfolios completed by senior-level students. When students evaluate other students' portfolios, it allows them to recognize what presentational methods are beneficial and what methods they should not implement in their own portfolios.

Conclusion

Seelio is an effective pedagogical tool for classroom instructors because it creates an additional learning space where students can reflect on their own projects and present their professional profiles creatively. Not only do instructors have control of their own level of involvement with Seelio, but Seelio also is helpful for those instructors who want to assist their students in presenting their work in a professional and appealing fashion.

References

Garis, J. W. (2007). E-portfolios: Concepts, designs, and integration within student affairs. *New*

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