

less time on MySpace. After thinking it over, I came to the conclusion that I would never win. I was up against something with a "cool factor" of 40 million. So, if you can't beat them... join them? I don't think so. Instead, I decided to invent a productive alternative to MySpace, and I have.

This "productive" alternative to MySpace is called the California Community College Communications Network, and it's located at <http://Qnet.cc>.

Qnet.cc is an online community for the whole Community College System. Qnet.cc is for student governments, staff unions, faculty unions, governing boards, and the millions of the people who are employed or represented by these groups. Qnet.cc has all the bells and whistles that MySpace does, including profiles, image galleries, blogging, private messaging, e-mail boxes, friend's circles and groups. Qnet.cc is so much more than MySpace, because it provides many "productive" decision making tools.

- Online meeting rooms will be available.
- Robert's rules of order will be built in.
- The brown act will be automatically enforced.
- Minutes will be recorded automatically and posted for public viewing.
- Agenda's will be forwarded automatically to all interested parties.
- The various representative bodies will be responsible for their member's behavior.
- Organizations, committees and groups can be formed around any subject.
- Democratic principals will be built into every level of the community.
- Opportunities for feedback will be provided at every stage of the decision making process.

My students want to be involved. They want to make a difference. They have a lot of energy to contribute to their community. However, I feel that they want more than anything to be connected and to feel connected to something larger. That's the appeal of MySpace. It's a huge community that values its members (for their advertising revenue) and makes them feel connected to other people with similar interests, needs, and desires.

Qnet.cc can provide a better social networking experience for community college people than MySpace, because it's our space. For more information, please visit <http://qnet.cc>. To view a prototype, visit <http://mpcLIFE.org>. To learn more about the nonprofit I created to develop this community, visit <http://oshoninstitute.org>.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Edmonds
Monterey Peninsula College
Student Activities Coordinator

With regard to MySpace, my opinions are based upon being a participant in the MySpace "world." Because this phenomenon is so popular with students, I decided to create my own site and begin to explore. What I have discovered is that there are many "layers" to MySpace...that it is perhaps a microcosm of the internet itself. I believe that, as educators, we could truly utilize MySpace as a source for learning and perhaps increase student interest in the topics that we teach.

For example, there are many sites that are devoted to science, the environment, social responsibility, political awareness, non-profit organizations, etc. Some individuals host sites that contain a wealth of historical information...oftentimes devotional sites to individuals, such as Joseph Campbell. One particular site serves as a hub for non-profit organizations, therefore, a person has the opportunity to simply click on "World Wildlife Foundation" and find themselves at the MySpace page of this organization. MySpace is not exclusively a place for personal sites, chatting experience, and the exchange of photos, etc. I've found that it can be very educational, provide extremely positive and uplifting information, and introduce one to many organizations that promote higher social responsibility.

I plan to use some of the wonderful MySpace sites as portions of classroom experiences. I think that this will appeal to students and also introduce them to the various "layers" of MySpace. I also believe that YouTube could be utilized in an incredibly instructional nature. For example, Sarah McLachlan's "World on Fire" YouTube is an excellent introduction to issues surrounding world poverty.

Perhaps the problem is not with MySpace, itself...but rather, at what level an individual chooses to participate and the amount of time that they invest on the site. This is actually very much the same as the Internet itself. A previous comment stated that students came to the conclusion that the majority of their wasted time was spent of MySpace. I agree that it can be a time waster, as I also agree that the Internet or computer usage on whole can be a time waster. I would like to see educators capitalize on what is a popular and well-known site to students by introducing them to the educational layers that lie at their fingertips.

Beverly Wimer
Associate Professor
Riverside Community College

I teach college success at Santa Barbara City College. When I did a time management activity with my class, I discovered that students thought My Space was their biggest time waster. They loved it but knew it served little purpose in helping them meet their goals. They described themselves as addicted!

Gabrielle Siemion, M.A.
College Success & Student Learning Outcomes
Santa Barbara City College
siemion@sbcc.edu