

R FIGURE 4.5. SAMPLE ACTIVITY FROM UNIT 1

Learning the Lingo

Choose the best definition for the following terms.

1. Social networking

- a. Trading business cards with other professionals in your field.
- b. The interaction among a group of people who share a common interest.
- c. Anything that happens on Facebook or MySpace.
- d. Trading gossip with your coworkers next to the copy machine.

Answer: b. Social networking refers to the interaction among a group of people who share a common interest. As the term denotes, however, these interactions are primarily social; they are not necessarily connected to a person's professional life.

2. Educational networking

- a. The use of social networking technologies to communicate with other professional educators.
- b. The use of social networking technologies to communicate with students.
- c. The use of social networking technologies for educational purposes.
- d. The same thing as social networking, but it requires Department of Education certification.

Answer: c. In the March/April 2010 issue of *Library Media Connections*, Jen Hegna and Doug Johnson help teachers distinguish between social networking and “educational networking.” Educational networking includes not only connections between teachers and other education professionals but also connections between teachers and students in “collaborative online learning experiences” that are a vital part of a modern education (p. 98). These types of interactions, like any other unit/lesson component, are well-planned and have specific educational purposes.

3. Web 2.0

- a. A term that encompasses a variety of web tools and services that focus on connections between users rather than solo use of the web.
- b. The newest fad web tool. Your principal will be monitoring your time in the computer lab to make sure that you're using it in your classes.
- c. Web 2.0? You were unaware that there was a Web 1.0.
- d. The latest web browser from Microsoft. You're going to have to uninstall Internet Explorer and then download it from Microsoft.com; it's sure to be a real pain.

Answer: a. In the handy mini-glossary accompanying her article “Professional Learning 2.0,” Catherine Huber (2010) defines Web 2.0 as “a new generation of web services and applications that offer the opportunity to collaborate, share, and create content through social networking tools” (p. 43). More specifically, Web 2.0 tools

(Continued)



FIGURE 4.5. *Continued*

require more than “passively view[ing] information that others have created”; instead, “users . . . interact with other users or edit content” (p. 43).

4. New literacies

- a. Also known as textspeak. For example, “rotfl! btw, gotta go. c u l8r!!”
- b. Working with multiple forms of representation including books, magazines, webpages, music, video, blogs, wikis, etc.
- c. Something the foreign language teacher covers. It has nothing to do with me.
- d. I don’t want to know—I like old literacies. Moby Dick, anyone?

Answer: b. In *The Socially-Networked Classroom*, William Kist (2010) describes his own inquiry process to define what a new literacies classroom looks like. He identifies five characteristics these classrooms share: (1) daily work in multiple forms of representation, (2) explicit analysis and discussion of different communication systems, (3) “think alouds by the teacher” when working with multiple kinds of texts, (4) “individual and collaborative activities,” and (5) places “of student engagement in which students report achieving a ‘flow’ state” (p. 8)—that is, a state of intense and fulfilling focused engagement on a single task (Csikszentmihalyi, 1997).

5. Blog

- a. A portmanteau word formed from the combination of “web” and “log.” It is rather like a public journal, usually authored by one person and focused on a theme or topic.
- b. That website on which you typed your PLC book-study responses.
- c. A weather phenomena, kind of like “smog” but worse.
- d. Hey! You have a blog! You started it at an in-service you attended last year . . . wonder what that password was . . . hmm . . .

Answer: a. “Blog” is the combination of the words “web” and “log.” It’s an online journal; usually a blog has a theme. Readers can also usually comment on a blog.

