Activity 15.6: Using Communication Technologies to Promote Teaching Learning

**Background and Purpose:** Our access to information continues to expand at a rapid pace. Consider that the widespread use of the Internet only began in 1997. Now we have many ways to connect with other teachers around the country and around the world. The purpose of this activity is to provide you with an opportunity to explore how various communication technologies can assist you and your colleagues to pursue your own learning and professional growth.

**Directions:** Alone or with a classmate or colleague, explore the following:

1. **Explore YouTube:** Google YouTube and select a topic. View the video you found. Search around and find two other YouTube videos. Now, check out TeacherTube. Select two or three videos and view them. Start a list itemizing the videos on YouTube and TeacherTube that you can use to support both student learning and your own learning. Consider producing a video on your own teaching that you could share.

2. **Explore Blogs:** Log on to [www.authenticeducation.org](http://www.authenticeducation.org) “The Faculty Room” blog to track the conversations that are in progress. Search out and explore other Blogs that have discussions that pertain to teaching and learning.

3. **Explore Internet Networks:** Check out two or three networks to survey the array of lesson plans and other resources available on the Internet. Here are two to consider. If they no longer exist, use Google to identify others.
   a. [www.nc-learning.com](http://www.nc-learning.com) – There are hundreds of lesson plans at this site.
   b. [www.nsrfharmony.org](http://www.nsrfharmony.org) – There are dozens of activities and protocols.

**Analysis and Reflection:** With a classmate or colleague consider how the type of information found on YouTube, Blogs, Internet Networks can be used to support teacher learning and professional growth. How can it be used to support your students’ learning? What are the possible negative aspects of information found on the online sources?