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Netiquette as a Savvy Principle in Social Media and Online Teaching and Learning

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In 1989, the World Wide Web, often referred to simply as the Web, stood as one of the most transformational inventions in human history, revolutionizing the way information is accessed, shared, and disseminated across the globe. Conceived by Sir Tim Berners-Lee in the late 20th century, the World Wide Web represents a vast network of interconnected digital documents and resources, accessible through the Internet. It serves as a virtual repository of knowledge, crossing diverse domains ranging from academia and business to entertainment and social interaction. Through hyperlinks, web pages, and multimedia content, the Web has convenient access to information, empowering individuals and communities to connect, collaborate, and innovate. The World Wide Web continues to evolve, shaping the way we communicate, learn, and interact in an interconnected world.

Digital Access and Online Teaching and Learning

Digital access is critical for online learning because it ensures that students have the tools they need, such as computers and the internet. It includes access to online platform resources and training to effectively navigate virtual classrooms such as U-Future and Google Classroom. Apart from that, addressing equity issues is crucial, as inequalities in access can widen educational differences. Providing equal access to digital resources and support helps ensure all students succeed in online learning. Promoting equitable access to technology and digital skills development can create inclusive learning environments where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Social media platforms can offer valuable opportunities for teaching and learning, including enhanced communication, collaboration, and access to diverse educational resources. They can facilitate real-time interactions between students and instructors, fostering engagement and active participation in learning activities. Moreover, social media platforms enable educators to share educational content, connect with experts in their field, and create online communities for knowledge exchange and peer support.

However, social media also poses challenges and risks that require careful management. These include concerns about privacy, distraction, misinformation, cyberbullying, and inequalities in access to technology. Educators must navigate these issues by establishing clear guidelines for social media use, promoting digital literacy skills, and fostering a positive online learning environment that prioritizes respect, integrity, and inclusivity.

Netiquette as a savvy principle of digital teaching and learning

Digital etiquette in social media online learning is essential for fostering a positive and respectful virtual learning environment. It entails following guidelines for communication, behaviour, and interaction on educational social media platforms. Students should practice respectful communication, avoid posting inappropriate content, and engage constructively with peers and instructors. Maintaining professionalism and adhering to academic standards is crucial, as social media can shape the lines between personal and academic spaces. By practicing digital etiquette in online teaching and learning, students can enhance collaboration, contribute to a supportive learning community, and maximize the benefits of virtual education.

Netiquette is short for "Internet etiquette" and refers to digital etiquette or the code of good behaviour on the internet. Shea's ten core rules of netiquette outline the following guidelines:

Rule 1: Remember the human.
Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behaviour that you follow in real life.
Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace.
Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth.
Rule 5: Make yourself look good online.
Rule 6: Share expert knowledge.
Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control.
Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy.
Rule 9: Do not abuse your power.
Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes.

As the author mentioned, the first rule is the "Golden Rule of Netiquette." As we communicate electronically through the computer screen, we only have "words" to express ourselves; we do not have the opportunity to use facial expressions, gestures, and tone of voice to communicate our meaning. We may misinterpret others' words or meanings in an online conversation; others may misunderstand us too. During online conversations, we may forget that we are speaking to humans on the other side of the screen; therefore, we may hurt each other's feelings, as we do not communicate as human beings in a face-to-face conversation but rather as screen-to-screen communication.

Students have to mute their microphone when they are not speaking to the class. If they want to speak or ask, just raise their hands and wait for their turn. Avoid distracting their colleagues with repetitive and meaningless posts. It is important for educators to inform students when to turn on their microphones or cameras and when they can raise their hands to participate in a discussion. When necessary, educators can disable cameras, microphones, and reactions during exams, but not consistently. Turning on their camera enables students to see and interact with them. In terms of technical aspects, educators must effectively manage their virtual classes by continuously educating themselves and ensuring they understand how to operate and handle various platforms and digital resources.

Ultimately, how educators integrate social media into the educational context and balance its benefits and risks determines its effectiveness as a teaching and learning platform. With thoughtful planning and implementation, social media can be a valuable tool for enhancing the educational experience and preparing students for success in the digital age.

Untuk sebarang urusan berkaitan akses terhadap MITASA, ahli-ahli boleh mengikuti kami di platform media sosial MITASA dengan mengimbas kod QR yang disediakan seperti Tiktok, Facebook, Instagram dan Twitter. Bersama ini juga disertakan kod QR untuk pendaftaran sebagai ahli dan borang aduan untuk ahli yang memerlukan.
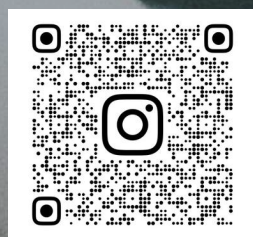
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