

E-tivity exemplars from the University of Southern Denmark

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At the University of Southern Denmark, more and more teachers use online learning activities as a supplement to face-to-face lessons. A variety of asynchronous e-learning tools are used to facilitate students' reflections and dialogue on the various subject matters. Blogs and wikis are especially popular. Discussion boards are also used. In order to drive the learning process forward and facilitate interaction online, Gilly Salmon's five-stage model and the e-tivities concept are used. In Module 4, you will become familiar with the five-stage model. In this module, you will work with the e-tivities concept. Hopefully, the exemplars below will inspire you.

Evaluations show that teachers who use the five-stage model and the e-tivities concept in the design process succeed in making the connection between the curriculum and the online activities and succeed in motivating students to contribute and to interact online.

The following e-tivities were used in autumn 2010 on the elective course "Digital communication in action", 10 ECTS, which is part of the Media Studies programme. The elective was taught by Anette Grønning, Associate professor, PhD from the Department for the Study of Culture. 72 BA students on their third or fifth semester took part in the course.

As you can see a simplified version of Gilly Salmon's e-tivities template was used.

E-tivity 1	
Digital Communication in Action – let's meet online This is the kick-off of the compulsory, virtual part of the course.	
Resource	The Café discussion forum in our course room on e-learn.sdu.dk
Purpose	To meet virtually and to create activity online
Task	Write a message in which you tell about your interests. Your message can be seen by everyone in the class. Make it brief. Write no more than you would on a postcard. You can write about your favourite subject, your favourite occupation or about something you have just discovered on the internet. Feel free to insert one or more images. Instead of writing your message, you can record and upload an audio file.
Respond	Return to the Café discussion forum from time to time and respond to the posts of at least three of your fellow students.
Deadline	7 to 21 September. Post your own contribution no later than 14 September.

E-tivity 2	
Information sources peer-to-peer The internet gives us access to much more information than we can grasp. Let us help each other organise useful and relevant resources within the area of “digital communication in action”.	
Resource	The blog in our course room on e-learn.sdu.dk
Purpose	To create a collection of useful sources (and perspectives) on the subject “digital communication in action”
Task	Find a source and post the URL together with a text in which you answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would your fellow students benefit from studying and/or using the perspective/source selected by you? • What is the interesting part? • State your opinion on the quality and validity of the source by for example commenting on the date of origin of the source, the authority of the source, the applicability of the source in your particular context or use other relevant means of evaluating the selected source.
Respond	Choose and respond to at least one of your fellow students’ posts stating your opinion on the perspective/source. Return to your own blog post from time to time and respond to the comments that you have received from your fellow students.
Deadline	21 September to 26 October. Post your own contribution no later than 5 October.

E-tivity 3	
To give and develop knowledge The blog e-tivity showed us that we all have relevant knowledge within a number of different topics relating to the subject “Digital communication in action”. The next step is to increase our knowledge of the subject and collect all our reflections in one place giving us a better overview than the blog.	
Resource	The wiki in our course room in e-learn.sdu.dk
Purpose	To create a collection of useful reflections on the subject “digital communication in action”
Task	The wiki contains 8 theme headings. Select the theme to which you want to contribute. Write one or more paragraphs communicating your thoughts. You are required to connect to at least one of the concepts that we have dealt with in class. It is important that you relate to the wiki medium. Don’t write diary or café style. Keep your information concise and state, as a minimum: What is the interesting part in your contribution with regards to the theme? What concept from class do you connect your reflections to?
Respond	Respond to at least one of your fellow students’ contributions by adding to it. Don’t be scared to edit your fellow students’ contributions. That is the rule of the wiki.
Deadline	16 November to 7 December. Post your own contribution no later than 23 November.