

ABSTRACT

Stimulating Student Engagement and Motivation: An Investigation Into the Use of Social Networking and Blogging as a Homework Resource in CAPE Communication Studies

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This study sought to examine whether students' motivation and engagement in Communication Studies could be influenced by the introduction of social networking and blogging into their homework activities. Data were collected from students of a secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago through the online postings and blogs of 23 students, from a purposeful sample of six students who were interviewed based on their online participation, as well as through observations. It was found that the students enjoyed the informality and convenience of the online intervention, along with the opportunities for collaboration and socialization. Further, their levels of engagement and motivation appeared to have been heightened by the study.

Keywords: Social networking; Internet in education; Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination; Communication Studies; Secondary school students; Student attitudes; Teaching techniques; Homework; Student motivation; Trinidad and Tobago