

What this Site is Not

Social networking sites have been receiving a lot of negative press lately. Many of these sites provide users with web logs (blogs) so that they can provide "friends" with personal information about their lives in journal form. As a result, many people now equate blogs with social networking sites like MySpace.com. This is unfortunate as blogs are just a small piece of what you will find there.

This site is a blogging community. It consists of a main portal blog and many member blogs. The main portal blog is run by the site administrator, me. I control everything that takes place here. Just like MySpace, there will be many interactions that take place between the members of this community. However, unlike MySpace, the purpose of those interactions will be strictly educational; there will be no interactions taking place for social reasons. This is not a place for students to meet new people, though I hope that they will learn more about their classmates from using it.

Personal Information

This site is an online community created exclusively for my classes. However, it is different from a social networking site like MySpace in that it does not require a published profile. When students register, they are required to submit an email address, their full name, a username, and a password. With the exception of the username, none of this is available to anyone but me. After the blog is created, the only identifying information that will appear on it is their first name.

Though students will be publishing lots of digital images, at no time will students be asked to publish photos of themselves.

Contact Information

As I said above, no contact information (like an email address) is published on the site. The only way to interact with members of the community is to comment on a post. However, this is impossible unless you are a member of the community. The only way to become a member is to register and be confirmed by me. Of course, I only allow students, teachers, or other members of the school community to do this. As a result, there is no chance of students ever being contacted by someone who has randomly come across the site.