Extending the Classroom with Online Presentation Tools

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Cyber Peer-Led Team Learning (cPLTL)
Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)

**Peer:** A more experienced undergraduate student who has recently completed the course with a good grade.

**Led:** Refers to leadership. A leader is a guide to others. Goes through extensive training to assume this role.

**Team:** A group of 6-8 people who work together to achieve a common goal.

**Learning:** The goal of the team is to learn chemistry.
What is a PLTL Workshop?

- 6-8 students

- Materials with problems slightly above the level of standard end-of-chapter questions and specifically designed for group work.

- A well-trained leader

- Compliment to the lecture

Critical Components for a Successful Workshop Program

- Integral part of the course
- Challenging materials (no answer keys)
- Trained and closely supervised leaders
- Supportive faculty
- Appropriate physical arrangement
- Supportive Administration

Why cyber PLTL (cPLTL)?

Untapped opportunities

- HS-University
- Community College-University
- Non-traditional and working students
- Allows new ways to capture data for discourse analysis and do research on how students learn in these environment.
- Understand leader styles-useful for peer leader training
Past cPLTL Challenges

- Whiteboard overlay in Adobe Connect
- Xournal
- Digital workbook
- Graphic Tablets
- Student/leader training
- General technology issues
Current cPLTL Setup
Overcoming cPLTL Challenges

- Document camera
- Paper workbooks
- Leader training workshop
- Workshop 0
Main Room

Camera and Voice

Attendee List (4)
- Hosts (1)
  - Jeremy Sherer

- Presenters (3)
  - Chad Qren Heacock
  - Souruh Sedigh
  - Kathleen J Dawson

- Participants (0)

Chat (Everyone)

Deja LaNay Morton: I'm only hearing half of the conversation.
Kathleen J Dawson: 2. If you stir them into water, the sugar will dissolve, the glass won't.
Deja LaNay Morton: Oh yes that's what I was thinking.
Deja LaNay Morton: HgCl2
Jeremy Sherer: can you hear anything?
Souruh Sedigh: ssedigh@u.ariziona.edu
Kathleen J Dawson: I do!
Kathleen J Dawson: O lol.
Jeremy Sherer: i] are you there?
**Main Room**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Hello students,

Your quiz questions will be displayed on the "Weekly Quiz Questions" Share Pod above. You can click the dropdown arrow in the upper right corner of the pod to fullscreen the questions.

Each student can select only one answer choice for each question in the Poll Pods to the right. You may change your answer as many times as you like until the end of the quiz; only your final choice will be recorded. You will have 7 minutes to complete the quiz.

You are to work individually on these questions and discussing them with other students is considered academic misconduct. You may not use your book, notes, or web search.
Boron is present in small amounts in the earth. It is a necessary nutrient for plants, although it is toxic to humans in large amounts. Given that its average atomic mass is 10.811 amu, use the following two exercises to practice ballparking the percent abundance of its two naturally occurring isotopes.

1. Without using a calculator, fill in the following table for the percentage abundance of the two boron isotopes. Determine which estimate most closely relates the actual percentage abundance as found in nature (average atomic mass 10.811 amu). Hint: Use the mass numbers of the two isotopes to perform your estimation instead of the atomic mass.
Leader Comments
Student Comments

- It was convenient
- No commuting
- Liked being able to share work
- Easier to communicate
Demonstration

http://breeze.iu.edu/cpltl
Questions?
Acknowledgments

• Peer Leaders
• PLTL Project Partners
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• NGLC Wave I
• Principle Investigator, Pratibha Varma-Nelson and cPLTL research group
“Beat Generation”: Course Details

- Typical course size is 15-20 students
- Class meets twice a week (75 minutes per session)
- Presentation of traditional lectures
- Ten journal entries (1-2 pages/entry)
- Three “postcard” response papers (3-5 pages each)
- Posting of blog entries (own, and response to classmates)
- Summative in-class presentation of “virtual road trip”
Why Blog with the Beats?

“It is impossible to write down your thoughts every day without noticing what you are thinking.”

Virtual Road Trip

• Journey to begin in Indianapolis, with some “ultimate destination” in mind
• Can travel up to a maximum of 300 miles per day (keep “travel log” to track miles/destination)
• Can choose any type of vehicle (money is no object)
• Can have real or “imaginary” travel companions
Virtual Road Trip

Documentation requirements:

- **Personal blog entries**: required to post at least twenty entries over the course of the semester

- ** Replies to classmate blogs**: in addition to personal entries, required to post at least twenty replies to other blogs
Virtual Road Trip

Documentation requirements (continued):

• “Postcard” papers: extended summaries (3 papers of between 4-5 pages in length) of all blog postings up to that point in the course, as well as other analysis around the class readings and discussions

• Presentation of semester road trip: a short in-class presentation, to summarize the adventures taken over the course of the semester
Course Structure: Beat Generation Radio

AM Radio Station Guide

Documentary/Readings

- 590–Naked Lunch Excerpt
- 610–The Cool Rebellion
- 650–Interview with Jack Kerouac
- 670–The Greenwich Village Poets
- 690–America

Comedy

- 720–Like Rumpelstiltskin
- 750–Christopher Columbus Digs the Jive
- 770–Cookie's Mad Paul
- 790–Married Blues
- 800–Psychometria Sexuales
- 810–Basic Hip
- 830–Cool
- 850–Uncool
- 890–But I Was Cool

Groovy/Hip/Cool

- 1200–Reach Into It
- 1240–Hippie is From
- 1280–The Murder of Two Men by a Young Kid Wearing Lemon Colored Gloves
- 1300–No Pictures, Please
- 1350–The Clown
Course Structure: Beat Generation Radio

AM Radio Station G

Documentary/Readings
- 590–Naked Lunch Excerpt
- 610–The Cool Rebellion
- 650–Interview with Jack Kerouac
- 670–The Greenwich Village Poets
- 690–America

Comedy
- 720–Like Rumpelstiltskin
- 750–Christopher Columbus Dies the...
- 770–Roochie’s Mad Paul
- 790–Married Blues
- 800–Psychotherapy Sexuals
- 810–Basic Hip
- 830–Cool
- 850–Uncool
- 890–But I Was Cool

Groovy/Hip/Cool
- 1200–Reach Into It
- 1240–Hunger is From
- 1250–The Murder of Two Men by a Van
- 1300–No Pictures, Please
- 1350–The Clown
Course Structure: Beat Generation News

The Beat Generation News

"Fuck 'em all, squares on both sides. I am the only complete man in the industry." — William S. Burroughs

Begin The Cool Rebellion

The members of the narrowly defined 'Beat Generation' met in New York. Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, (in the 1940s) and later (in 1950) Gregory Corso (hence why they were called the "New York Beasts" though only Corso was from New York). Though endless travel around the country is part of their romanticized image, most of the central figures (excluding Burroughs) ended up together in San Francisco in the mid-1950s where they met and became friends, and figures associated with the San Francisco Renaissance such as Kenneth Rexroth, Gary Snyder, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Michael McClure, Philip Whalen, Harold Norse, Lew Welch, and Kirby Doyle. They met there many other poets who had migrated to San Francisco because it had a reputation as an important new center of creativity. They met there Bob Kaufman who was the first to actually be called a beatnik. And they met there Philip Lamantia, Michael McClure, Tony Kinseher, and members of the recently

Today's Programming:

Beat Radio:
AM 610 The Cool Rebellion
AM 830 Cool
AM 850 Uncool

Best TV:
Programs coming soon!
On my last day in Yosemite (day 7) I struck up a conversation with a middle-aged couple (in their mid-forties). They were curious what I was up to, out in the wilderness all by myself. They wanted to know where I was from, where I went to school, what I majored in, and what my future plans were. Right now, I see myself being an organic farmer someday, and that's exactly what I told them. They were overjoyed to hear of such an aspiration - they own an organic farm in Madera, California, not far from Fresno. They invited me to come visit their farm and learn some of the basics of owning and operating an organic farm. I am so excited to have such an opportunity. I had been planning on volunteering through WWOOF (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) on this trip, but had yet to pursue that goal. This is the perfect opportunity, especially since I have never actually worked on a farm before. They even offered me a bed! I don't know the last time I slept in a REAL bed!
Blog Example Two

Mississippi River
October 8, 2010

I tried to forget about the revelation I had outside the St. Louis Steak ‘n’ Shake. I figured everybody has artificial goals and dreams that keep them going. I talked myself into believing Austin, Los Angeles, and San Francisco were much better cities than St. Louis. The 12 hours of sleep I got also helped me forget, and I was ready to get back on the road. I knew I was completely recovered when I decided my next stop would be Topeka, Kansas. I picked Topeka for one of the worst reasons possible, because it’s where Russell from the fictional band Stillwater had his “almost famous” moment in the movie Almost Famous. My logic is dumb for multiple reasons: one, it’s a movie; two, I’m not famous; three, it’s Kansas. But I made up my mind. Before I left I decided to run along the Mississippi River and because of Kerouac’s great description of it I thought about On the Road. This made me realize that I needed to be “mad to live” and roll with the punches that the road brings.
Blog Example Three

Dinner in Denver
October 9, 2010

I spend the night pulled off the side of an interstate exit ramp. The nearest rest stop was too far for me to drive. I got tired and found the darkest spot I could: an exit to a town too far for gas stations or fast food restaurants to collect at the exit. I think of those towns so far from the interstate. I wonder how quiet they must be. I didn’t sleep well in the car. I was tired enough to pass out, but was awakened time to time if a semi went by and hit its brakes. That shuttering sound reminded me of waves. I am losing my dream of the ocean. I start to wonder why I’m out here and if it’s not too late to turn back. I spend a bit of my time just sitting in the car listening to traffic go by. I decide to keep going to Denver. People are expecting me, and why not? The dream may come back, or a different one will come to me.
Blog Example Four

New Orleans…Part 1
November 29, 2010

Because how can you blog about New Orleans in just one day? Not possible. After taking the long bridge over Lake Pontchartrain and entering New Orleans, you become excited. From there I wanted to see 509 Warner Street, also known as the former home of William Burroughs and Joan Vollmer. I was I surprised to find a sign in the front yard denoting its history. “Then there was the lizard tree – this grotesque, ugly tree that was covered in lizards. It was one of Joan’s duties to rake the tree lizards off the tree every night.” I only wish I could’ve been there to hear the sound of the drowning cats screaming because the quaint little house we were looking at did not belie the stories I’d read in Carolyn’s book. Looks a little too quaint, doesn't it? Well, New Orleans is nothing if not ironic at times.
Blog Example Five

On the Way to Waco…
November 30, 2010

Texas started making me delirious. I was definitely reminded of the quote by Ginsberg about those "who demanded sanity trial accusing the radio of hypnotism and were left with their insanity and their hands and a hung jury." I felt like perhaps the radio DJ was actually speaking to me. THAT is when it hit me. I have a great friend who is a DJ, who is always hilarious, and has nothing keeping him from grabbing a bag & meeting me for the rest of the trip. So I called Whip, told him to catch a flight to meet me. That refreshed my mind and spirit, and I checked into a Waco motel and fell fast asleep, hoping I would know who I was when I woke up in the morning.
I got to Portland and told my friend Jason about how down I was about my trip so far. He suggested that we just try to take advantage of living in America and do everything that we want to do because we can do it. First we went to a tattoo shop and got tattoos. He decided he wanted to get his whole leg tattooed with characters from cereal boxes. I just started getting pictures of planets and robots and zombies. Just because. There was a girl getting a whole Beat sleeve on her arm. She started with Kerouac and I asked her if she knew how badly he treated women. She didn’t seem to care because what was important to her was his words. I then told her that Jack couldn’t drive and she called me a liar. Oh well, people believe what they want to believe and her tattoo was her American dream.
Lessons Learned

• Just because you build it, don’t assume they will necessarily come to it
• Framing writing assignments in other ways
• Encouraging more active blogging (especially in response to other blogs)
• Model expectations, i.e., just because you think it’s great, don’t assume they will
Blog Tool Wish List

- Search across all blog entries
- Mobile integration
- Ability to grade individual blog entries
- “Deep link” to other Sakai tools (especially portfolio tools)