

CFD's Tuesday Tech Tips #2



Welcome Each Tuesday you will receive via faculty email a technology tip designed to help you with teaching or to pass on as a reminder to your students. Visit our website below to see previous tips. If you have an idea you wish to pass along, please let me know. As always, I welcome your feedback.

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Warnings about social networks

If your students or children engage in social networking with Facebook, MySpace, and others, you may want to pass on these warnings.

1. **Be careful.** Don't post anything on your site or your "friends" sites you wouldn't want a prospective employer or professor to see. Derogatory comments, revealing or risqué photos, foul language and lewd jokes all will be viewed as a reflection of your character. 35% of employers report that they have disqualified candidates based on their site entries. Many professors get to know their students through these sites.
2. **Be discreet.** If your network offers the option, consider setting your profile to "private," so that it is viewable only by friends of your choosing. And since you can't control what other people say on your site, you may want to use the "block comments" feature. Remember, everything on the Internet is archived, and there is no eraser!
3. **Be prepared.** Check your profile regularly to see what comments have been posted. Use a search engine to look for online records of yourself to see what is out there about you. If you find information you feel could be detrimental to your candidacy or career, see about getting it removed -- and make sure you have an answer ready to counter or explain "digital dirt."
4. **Watch your credit.** Revealing addresses, full birthdates, and other personal information only helps those wishing to steal your credit.