

11.1 Learning Environments

There are a number of [online learning environments](#) . [Blackboard](#), eUniversity, and [Desire to Learn](#) (the MD DOEd platform) are just a few. Most are for a fee. In Maryland, Blackboard and D2L are most often used by local school systems. Some FREE sites are [TeacherWeb](#), [Teach-nology](#), [Google Page Creator](#), [Moodle](#) & [OLMS](#). While TeacherWeb and Teach-nology are limited in scope (more like a teacher webpage development) it is close to "no instructions needed". Moodle is the up and coming LMS Open Source with full capacity. Download is needed.

First, explore several of the LMS you are not familiar with-then, thinking about learning management systems (LMS) you have explored (like your Blackboard course) **respond to the following:**

- **How could these resources (LMS) or this type of experience (learning through a LMS) be used in a K-12 setting? College/university setting? Professional development setting?**
- **Think about the sites in terms of ease of use/simplicity versus features and how this could target a specific audience. In addition, what about access issues?**

Next, create your own resources for the class to see using either Teach-nology, Google page creator, or Teacher Web (3-5 pages minimum). Post your link in this discussion thread so the rest of the class can see and discuss.

11.2 Open Source

Read [Biting the Hand That Feeds You](#). Comment on standardization as a driving force toward the computer becoming the force it is today, and its applicability to the classroom, as discussed by Gutzman.

Some articles on Linux and Redhat education initiatives that may interest you (optional) can be found at <http://www.thejournal.com/magazine/vault/A2917.cfm> and <https://www.redhat.com/solutions/industries/education/>. Other resources on open source can be found at [Freeware and Open Source](#)

11.3 Sign up for a Listserv

There are several educational list serves available that help educators stay current on the latest news and current events. From available [listservs](#) or from one you would like to join (perhaps a science domain) choose 1 to participate in or join. The listserv should be a NEW one to you on a topic of interest. **Due to timing if you already belong to one—reflect on the questions below related to that listserve.** You will probably need some

time to get a sense of what the listserv is about and learn the format, content etc... After spending some time involved with the listserv please respond to:

- **What listserv did you join?**
- **How easy/hard was it to subscribe?**
- **What are the "rules" of the listserv?**
- **Give a brief description of the listserv (perhaps one that I can add to the listserv description list). For example, what topics does it cover, who would benefit it joining, how often are news blasts sent out? Are they timely? What format, frequency etc...**
- **What are the advantages/disadvantages to educators/parents of joining a listserv**
- **Could a listserv be used in a classroom setting with K-12 students? If so how?**

11.4 View a webcast

There are a variety of free WebCasts that are available to educators and/or the general public. Visit the [upcoming events list](#). Make arrangements to join one (most require you to reserve a spot even though it is free). All are FREE but will need to register for most. There are some that have upcoming broadcasts. Upcoming means you could participate live. If you have the chance, try a live webcast as there is a chance for your own input (like our chat room). If you can not make a webcast live—then visit one of the archived webcasts. After participating/viewing for at least a portion of the event reply to the following:

- **What Webcast did you attend? Live or archived?**
- **What are some positive aspects to this type of delivery?**
- **What are some of the drawbacks?**
- **Share your experience attending a "webcast lecture." How could you or other teachers/faculty members/trainers benefit from using this type of media?**
- **Will you try this again?**
- **Would you recommend the site you visited to other educators?**

11.5 Blog

After visiting the readings related to Blogs—go to eBlogger.

<https://www.blogger.com/start> Walk through the steps to create your own blog to share and highlight a topic of interest—perhaps a blog about a topic you will be covering in class that your students could add to or about a personal interest. You can visit several of the blogs from the readings to brainstorm ideas. Please send the link, location and log in information for the class and myself to view.

11.6 Web 2.0

What is Web 2.0? From your readings you should have visited a variety of the web 2.0 applications. To summarize your readings....

First visit FunnyMonkey: [Tools for Teachers](#) and view the Changing expectations video—also notice this video is embedded within an educational blog. Next visit YouTube “[Web 2.0: The Machine is Using Us](#)”. Then read/skim through [Kathy Schrock’s Shedding Light on Web 2.0](#) (notice the Web 2.0 Applications she lists). Next skim through [Web 2.0 tools: interview 3](#) (coming from the UK so give it a moment to load). Finally, skim and explore Web 2.0 applications at the [Resources for Teachers on Web 2.0 and other Applications](#) and [Education 2.0 Hub Pages](#).

Discuss in your own words what each of the following new applications is/does and brainstorm (sentence or two) how you might be able to utilize each in your classroom. We will explore examples of each more in depth in class face to face in the next class session.

- **Blogs**
- **Wikis**
- **Social networking sites (including educational ones)**
- **RSS Feeds**
- **Social Bookmarking**
- **Podcasts**
- **2.0 apps (like [Google Educator Apps](#))**