

Handout 14.1. Supplemental Directions and Student Samples

Day 1: Beginning with the Pligg site

- Head over to our Pligg site, 108 Diggs, and read the explanation of a Pligg website.
- Write an explication paragraph explaining what a Pligg site is.
- Sign up for an account.
- Post an original news article (following the directions on the site).
- Respond to at least 3 other articles.

Here is how the site explains a Pligg site:

Pligg, originally named Meneame, is a web application that allows you to submit an article that will be reviewed by all and will be promoted, based on popularity, to the main page. When a user submits a news article it will be placed in the unpublished area until it gains sufficient votes to be promoted to the main page.

One student's explication paragraph:

A Pligg site is a web application that allows the user to post an article for viewers to view and based on popularity will be migrated to the main page. In other words a new article will be placed in the unpublished area until it gains sufficient votes to be promoted to the main page. Hobbytalk, a popular forum I use, has a similar format because threads that get more responses are sent to the main page based on popularity. This is like a community bulletin board that, based on the views or looks a paper, gets kept or placed at the center of the bulletin board.

One student found an article about Tiger Woods (this was right after the story broke that Woods wasn't cooperating with police just yet in regard to hitting the tree and his then-wife smashing the back window with a golf club). The summary:

Tiger Woods Cancels Meeting with Florida Police

Tiger Woods cancelled another meeting with the Florida state police. He had no reason to cancel it, though. Tiger Woods said that he was embarrassed to him and his family but is keeping the information private.

And here is one of the comments on this post:

I think Tiger Woods should just speak up and say what really happened. Because people pretty much already have some type of idea on what happened but he should just say what happened.

You will notice some spelling errors in this text. The browser on our computers has spellcheck turned off for students taking state exams online. This started an interesting conversation about composing in a word processor first and then posting to the site (as in the “real-life” way that adults use computers).

Day 2: Find some sources for our topic

Search the Internet tubes for at least two (2) good sources that deal with our topic: how to win friends (relationships) *and* influence people (motivating others). Make sure it’s a credible source.

Then, *use* our site, 108 Diggs, to share the information with the rest of the class. (Remember what we did the last time we used this site: Follow the directions under “Submit a New Story.” For the write-up, summarize [~two sentences] and evaluate [~1 sentence].)

Last, so I can give you the points for this activity, you will copy and paste your two write-ups into this editing window (Edit My Submission).

Here is what one student posted as a write-up for the first part of this assignment:

Friendship

This page gives very helpful tips to follow when trying to maintain a relationship. In other words, if you’re having trouble keeping friends this page will give you new ideas to try out. I think this is a very useful site if you find yourself constantly losing friendships.

Motivating others

This article mainly focuses on motivating people in a work environment. It gives you more tips on what not to do when trying to motivate people. I liked this article because instead of saying a bunch of things you should do, it gave you more of an idea of what to avoid if you’re trying to motivate someone.

Day 3: Read and Review “108 Diggs” entries

Now, head over to the 108 Diggs site and look only at those entries in the Friends/Influence category. Start to comb through the various entries, making 2- 3-sentence comments regarding the site mentioned and voting for the ones you find helpful. Try for 6–8 sites today (and make note of which sites [URLs] you visited here).

Here are a few of the students' comments:

- I believe some of the bad things are more like common sense. For instance "NEVER criticize their kids, hobbies, partner or home." Sounds normal because no one would actually say "Wow! Your kids are absolute retards." I believe that good relationships with friends and family can definitely lead to much success.
- I highly agree with this article. I agree because many people say they are plenty busy when they have so much extra time but they try to do everything in such a short amount of time.
- I agree, even if you're busy you should always make time to maintain relationships. If you use work as an excuse you'll find yourself with no friends.