



## Hookers and Prisoners: The Pros and Cons

December 16, 2009 at 2:15 pm · Filed under E-learning, Politics

Russell Tarr tweeted this fantastic site earlier today, <http://www.procon.org/>. It has over 1000 contentious issues debated using the pro/con technique favoured by Franklin, with all evidence referenced and no political bias (according to its remit). Potentially of huge value to critical thinking classes, PSHCE and debating clubs.

Comments

## Scandinavians schools fjord the rubicon

December 7, 2009 at 4:27 pm · Filed under E-learning

Danish and Norwegian schools are pioneering a new attitude to examinations by allowing their students to use the internet in national examinations. In a startlingly forward thinking response to the ubiquity of internet enabled devices in the modern world the scandiwegians have taken the decision that it is not the ability to regurgitate facts that defines ability in the modern world but the ability to synthesise and research them in response to borad questioning. Expect OCA to respond with lightning speed sometime after England host their next world cup.

Comments (3)

## Great video on the merits of blogging for teachers

December 6, 2009 at 3:23 pm · Filed under E-learning



Comments

## Bus(y/i)ness and blogging

December 5, 2009 at 12:48 pm · Filed under E-learning

Loads of e-learning experiences this week, isn't it odd how when you are genuinely busy there is less time to blog whereas when you're blogging you often feel genuinely busy. In my case at least. On Tuesday I was up in Birmingham at Microsoft Innovators in Education forum, a lavish affair full

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Site w/ links 2 hundreds of documentaries in full, also suitable 4 embedding in2 other sites (35 History, 16 Politics) <http://bit.ly/6s2jq0> 6 hours ago

Experimenting with OpenBeak, ubertwitter was nothing to write home about. 22 hours ago

brilliantly the volume controls on the video rushes for the new BBC Digital Revolution series go up to 11, <http://bit.ly/3mkqQT!> 5 days ago

New BBC Series on Digital Revolution to experiment with collaborative technologies <http://bit.ly/20BNvs> 6 days ago

Brilliant 'Education 2010' booklet produced back in 1989 envisioning the future, <http://bit.ly/73cEK0>, often with surprising accuracy! 1 week ago

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[November 2009 \(4\)](#)

[October 2009 \(11\)](#)

»

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of genuine early adopters but the limited pool of schools from which the speakers and winners came suggests that the e-learning pioneers (in this case [saltash.net](#) and [Twynham School](#) and the [Shirelands Academy](#)) are leaving the rest of us behind. Interestingly saltash won a host of awards despite using Moodle for the bulk of their online learning. This either suggests that MS are being very open and democratic in their promotion of online learning or that their platform isn't yet delivering in schools.

Second up was our preliminary meeting for Gloucestershire TeachMeet which, whilst not as well attended as I would have liked, did generate a flood of good ideas and a promise to take things forward. I'm reading Daniel Pink's book '[The Adventures of Johnny Bunko](#)' and this has been both inspiring and timely. Lesson 5 came to mind on Thursday!

 [Comments](#)

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## Not yet drowning

November 25, 2009 at 9:35 pm · Filed under [E-learning](#)

I had an invite to Google Wave at the weekend (thanks Ed) and have been looking at the public waves and seeing some very impressive stuff. But, without a decent sized group of people you know to collaborate with it doesn't really come alive. Fortunately it appears that you are given eight invites to spread the word so if anyone wants one please feel free to give me a shout.

 [Comments](#)

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## Waving hello to SMS

November 13, 2009 at 9:54 am · Filed under [E-learning](#), [Politics](#)

Having watched some of the videos introductions to [Google Wave](#) it's power as a collaborative note-taking and essay writing tool for teachers of humanities subjects seems very exciting but getting access to begin experimenting with what it can do has been very frustrating. So I've come up with an alternative. In my current school we are both blessed and cursed with technically literate and wealthy student so Blackberrys and iphones are ubiquitous. While there is a blanket ban on them being used in school I though I would attempt a Wave-esque exercise by getting groups of three from my politics set to produce an essay on 'Have Prime Ministers become more Presidential in recent years?' using Blackberry Messenger, SMS or another mobile technology. The learning goal being to force them to break down their work into sections where one student makes a point, the next provides evidence, the third explains the evidence and the first then links it back to the question. I've no idea how this will work but I have high hopes that it will make essay structure more obvious to those who are currently struggling.

 [Comments](#)

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## Doomsday Book and ICT

November 12, 2009 at 12:01 pm · Filed under [E-learning](#), [History](#)

A wonderful clip put together for BBC Radio 4 Comedy Show 'Happy Mondays' which could form the basis of a new GCSE entitled Loss of Data Records through time.



 Comments

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## Prospective TeachMeet conference

November 4, 2009 at 4:52 pm · Filed under [E-learning](#)

I've stumbled upon the concept of [TeachMeet](#) an 'unconference' where teachers with an interest in e-learning get together for short form presentations and general networking. Inspired with enthusiasm I'm now trying to set one up for January 2010 in the Gloucestershire area so if you're interested please leave a comment to that effect. if you don't know what TeachMeet is then take a look at the video below.



 Comments

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## Doctored photos

October 29, 2009 at 9:21 am · Filed under [History](#), [TOK](#)

We've just been discussing Stalin's habit of doctoring photographs when I came across this online.



not only is it a funny image and useful for introducing the idea of reliability of photos (as do the series [here](#)) but it shows just how powerful photoshop is and how every image from 2000 onward will have to be treated with huge scepticism by future historians, making the teaching of provenance analysis and reliability all the more important.

 Comments

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## Truetube, a more reliable youtube

October 24, 2009 at 1:54 pm · Filed under E-learning, Politics

During a periodic cruise through the BECTA site I came across [truetube](#) which was a BETT Awards Winners 2009 in the Secondary digital content category. It's a good site with lots of well put together video resources, excellent for citizenship and politics lessons. Here's an example of one on alternatives to prison.

[ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON](#)

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