

I'm not great with technology and, to be honest, I'm not even sure I knew what new media was before I participated in the certificate program. The main reason I participated is because one of my teaching goals is to increase my comfort-level with technology and, subsequently, increase my use of it in the classroom. Overall, participating in the certificate program has given me new ways to think about and manage my teaching and committee work.

Most importantly, the workshop series introduced me to new media, including Xtranormal, Mightybell, and Dropbox, which I would not have discovered on my own and, if I had, would not have felt comfortable trying by myself. For instance, I had never heard of Dropbox, but now that I've been introduced to it, I love it and I recommend it to everyone because I can put files in a folder on my laptop at home and they will instantly appear on my iPad and school computer; it also makes sharing files with people so easy. In addition to Dropbox, I have also begun using Mightybell to complete work for and collaborate with various committees. If I hadn't been introduced to Mightybell during the first workshop I attended, I would have had to learn the program on top of all the committee work, which would have been an extra hurdle.

Perhaps my favorite new media website is Xtranormal, which I used in my WRI 40 course to test my students' understanding of argument and counter-argument. After reading a book review and the author's response to the review, I asked my students to create a video depicting the two people as characters arguing in an Xtranormal video. After they created their videos, they presented them to the class.

Participating in the certificate program has increased my enthusiasm for technology and as I learned about each of the websites and the exciting possibilities, I wanted to try to incorporate all of them into my course. However, I also learned the importance of letting the teaching drive the technology; in other words, I must start with my teaching/learning goals and then add in the appropriate technology and don't try to incorporate every new technology you learn all at once: baby steps!