Digital Fluencies and A2J in Academic, Professional, and Community Legal Writing

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“Digital Fluency:
“An evolving aptitude that empowers the individual to effectively and ethically interpret information, discover meaning, design content, construct knowledge, and communicate ideas in a digitally connected world.”

My advanced legal research and writing class could use an upgrade to address legal writing today. How can I incorporate non-traditional digital fluencies in various forms of legal writing and research learning?

Today’s law student can gain an advantage by developing digital fluencies, and the future lawyer can use this learning to further a professional responsibility to promote access to legal information and access to justice!

This year, you have a mandatory blog assignment. It can be a reflective piece on your major legal memo project, a comment on a case you researched, or a reflective piece on LRW in law school. And you’ll comment on each other’s posts.

OK! So I get to create legal content and contribute to professional discussion! Cool!

Examples of posts published at Slaw

Slaw is a blog collaboratively written and read by lawyers, legal academics, law practice managers, law librarians, and others.

Slaw is also read by members of the wider community.

- Reflective pieces on substantive research for the student’s major writing assignment
- Reflective pieces on legal research and writing learning in law school
- Memos and posts on access to legal information and access to justice

Great! I also get a publication and contribute to community knowledge*

But as “just” a law student, I’m hesitant about writing online about the law!

Our course blog is private* and we’ll publish posts anonymously. We’ll devote class time to online writing skills and to self- and peer editing practice. All comments must be respectful and professional.

Examples of case comments published on CanLII Connects

CanLII Connects is an open companion to the open Canadian case law and legislative site.

Members of the wider community freely access CanLII Connects for informed commentary on a range of important and complex legal issues.

- Some comments on cases discovered Officers CanLII Connects for informed commentary on a range of important and complex legal issues.
- Some comments on cases discovered

Yes! And I found some great resources for my memo and my blog post using the social media researching skills* we learned in the class!

This ALRW course isn’t so bad! I like that my major legal research memo can help an NGO solve a REAL problem! Plus, I receive a lot of helpful feedback from my classmates and professor!

OK! I found some great resources for my memo and my blog post using the social media researching skills* we learned in the class!

Dedicated to Sat Paul Nayyer, the teacher I can only aspire to be.