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Student Personal Learning Environment Interview Protocol

Jean Amaral
CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College

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Community College Student and Faculty Information Needs and Information Seeking
Student Personal Learning Environment Video Interviews Protocol

Ten students will be interviewed for approximately 60 minutes about the resources and processes they use for learning, studying, and completing academic assignments; the interviews will include students describing and demonstrating their personal learning environments. Students will be asked to bring to the interview devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets, laptops) they use to complete their academic work. The interviews will be videorecorded.

Student Personal Learning Environment Interview Questions

As a reminder: In this study, we are interested in what technological and information resources students use to learn, study, and complete their class assignments.

1. I have a few background questions to get us started: What is your age? What ethnicity do you identify as (may choose multi-ethnic or decline to answer)? How many semesters (or classes) have you completed at QCC? What’s your academic program? And what is your goal in attending QCC (e.g., associate’s degree, transfer, certificate)?

2. What technologies (devices, programs, etc.) do you use for your academic work? (Have student demonstrate on available devices, if appropriate.)

3. Can you demonstrate a typical workflow when you’re studying, working on assignments, or writing papers? What technologies would you most likely be using?

4. What do you need (what is essential) to help you . . . Get your classwork done? Write papers? Do research (if you do research)? Find information?

5. Beyond what you need, is there any technology or anything else you’d like to have to help you do any of these things?

If the following have not been mentioned, ask about:

6. Once you find a resource that you might use in your work, how do you keep track of it?

7. Do you print out most of the material (PDFs/articles/book chapters/etc.) that you find? Or do you read them on the computer, tablet, or smartphone? If you read on a device, what programs do you use for this? Do you usually write on or highlight text you are reading?

8. Have you collaborated on assignments with other students from QCC? If so, do you work together in person? Online? If online, what programs do you use?

9. Where are you most comfortable working? Or what is your preferred location/space for getting your school work done?
10. Do you use Facebook? Twitter? Tumblr? Linkedin? Other social networking sites? Would you be interested in receiving or accessing academic information through Facebook or other social networking sites?

11. If the library has not been mentioned, why not? What can the library do to improve services in support of learning and your academic life?

12. What’s your technology wish list? For yourself? For QCC? For the Library?

Wrap Up

13. Is there anything else you’d like to add that hasn’t been covered in our conversation?

Many many thanks for your time . . .