

**Using Facebook for teaching  
and learning in Schools**  
**Tshilidzi Tshiredo**

# Introduction

- Long time ago even before technologies, social networking platforms and mobile devices, Dewey, J.(1859-1952) stated that “*We do not learn from our experiences, we learn from processing our experiences*’, for centuries this has been proven to be true, and now in this digital age that has offered us easy and open access to a wealth of information via technological innovation such as the internet, mobile technologies and applications, social networking platforms etc. all of these have simplified the way we learn and has made the processing of our experiences much easier than ever before. Throughout history educational institutions have existed to create an educated, bettered society; however, in today’s society it would seem that educational institutions are being educated by society on the use of technologies and social networking platforms.

# Introduction

- This paper identifies the affordance of Facebook(fb) in assisting teaching and learning.
- Today's mobile technologies offer anywhere, instant on-demand educational information and 24 hour access to student peers around the world.
- Teachers and learners found new ways to collaborate , communicate and interact with fb, mobile applications (apps) that enable groups to move past their usual ways of working together, and foster community-based-learning.

# Facebook and Mobile learning

- mobile phones are getting more sophisticated and have more applications than ever before, they are making learning 'on the go' a reality and applications such as Facebook are emerging in education (Khaddage and Bray 2011)
- There are more than twenty two privacy settings on Facebook mobile app that students are able to change so that they can keep their private information safe, this would make Facebook mobile app a safe and secure environment

# Several hypotheses regarding the uses of Facebook have been proposed by different researchers in a number of disciplines.

- This presentation will focus on Facebook affordances that could Enhance teaching and learning in schools
- To do this, it is assumed that the participative approach will serve the purpose.

# Have you ever used Facebook?

1. Yes
2. No



# Facebook as a social networking tool

Which of these things can you do?

- A. Create a profile
- B. Make friends
- C. Post comments on a wall/Timeline – and respond to those of others.
- D. Chat to friends
- E. Send a private message to a friend
- F. Upload pictures, videos
- G. Uploading files through third part applications: Drop box or Google Drive



# Facebook as a social networking tool

Which of these things can you do?

- G. A. Provide a link to a website
- H. Create an event
- I. Create Doc for collaboration
- J. Create Group
- K. Create group email
- L. Use Notes
- M. Tag





# Demonstration on how to create a link on your Timeline

The screenshot shows a Facebook browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Tabs:** Includes 'https://www.facebook.com/groups/145679232283116', 'Moretele Education Develo...', and 'Google'.
- Profile Header:** 'Tshilidzi Tshiredo' with an 'Edit Profile' link. Below the name are three profile pictures: a skull, a person in a blue shirt, and a close-up of the person's face.
- Navigation:** 'About', 'Events', 'Photos', and 'Files' tabs.
- Post Creation Tools:** 'Write Post', 'Add Photo / Video', 'Ask Question', and 'Add File' buttons.
- Post Content:** A text box containing: 'This is a demonstration of how you can share a link with your group. In this case third party application was used to share some documents through Google Drive.'
- Post Metadata:** '3 members · Message' and '+ Add People to Group'.
- Post Footer:** 'Moretele Education Development...' and a 'Post' button.
- Left Sidebar:** 'FAVORITES' (News Feed, Messages, Events, Photos, Notes) and 'PAGES' (Moretele EDC, Pages Feed, Like Pages, Create Ad).
- Right Sidebar:** 'Related Groups' (Laughte medicin, Thabiso) and 'Sponsored' (Live in Can).
- Bottom Taskbar:** Windows taskbar with icons for Start, Internet Explorer, and other applications. The system clock shows '04:04 PM 2013/06/30'.





# Create an event

 **Tshilidzi Tshiredo**  
Edit Profile

FAVORITES

- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Photos
- Notes

PAGES

-  Moretele EDC
-  Pages Feed 17
-  Like Pages 2
-  Create Ad

GROUPS

-  Using Facebook in Schools
-  Moretele Education Dev...

### Create New Event for Moretele Education Develoment...

**Name**

**Details**

**Where**

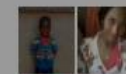

**When**

**Privacy**

Invite all members

Files

Related Groups

-  Laughte medicin
-  Thabiso

Sponsored

Used car: OLX  
olx.co.za

Chat (4)

# Sharing documents through Google Drive

Browser address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/145679232283116> Moretele Education Develo...

**FAVORITES**

- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Photos
- Notes

**PAGES**

- Moretele EDC 17
- Pages Feed
- Like Pages 2
- Create Ad

**GROUPS**

- Using Facebook in Schools
- Moretele Education Dev...**
- Eastern Cape e-Learning S...
- Design and Development G...
- EDUC 2178 2012
- ICT Intergration in schools
- Create Groun...

**Moretele Education Development Centre** About Events Photos Files

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question Add File

3 members · Messag

+ Add People to Gr

sharing documents through Google drive

Moretele Education Develo... Post

**RECENT POSTS**

**Tshilidzi Tshiredo**

Untitled document - Google Drive  
docs.google.com

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · Share · June 26 at 12:25pm

Chat (4)

Related Groups

- Laughte medicin
- Thabiso
- Join

Sponsored

Get a Samsung  
bidorbuy.co.za

04:24 PM  
2013/06/30



**Tshilidzi Tshiredo**  
Edit Profile



- FAVORITES
- News Feed
  - Messages
  - Events
  - Photos
  - Notes

- PAGES
- Moretele EDC
  - Pages Feed
  - Like Pages
  - Create Ad

- GROUPS
- Moretele Education Dev...
  - Using Facebook in Schools

**Moretele Education Development Centre** [About](#) [Events](#) [Photos](#) [Files](#)

Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question Add File

This is a demonstration on how to write or comment on your timeline, then you have to click the post button below

RECENT POSTS



**Tshilidzi Tshiredo**

Chat (1)

3 members · Message  
[+ Add People to Group](#)

**Related Groups**

- Laughte medicine
- Thabiso E

[Join](#)



Isabel Nel

Come on People. Let's all do it!



Earth Hour 2011  
www.youtube.com

You are one of billions of people that have the power to make it happen. 8.30pm Saturday 26 March.

22 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share

2 people like this.

Write a comment...



Ruth Barrett via African Penguin



The Mom Song with lyrics  
www.youtube.com

Thanks for all the views and positive feedback! I'm so glad people are enjoying this! I put this together for my dad to use for Mother's Day at church. Sorry if the lyrics are a little off. I had to blend 2 videos together.

23 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share



Isabel Nel

Even the Union Building + Table Mountain have switch off their lights ...

20 hours ago via BlackBerry · Like · Comment

8 people like this.

Chat (1)

# Why do people join Facebook?

- A. To keep in touch with people they know
- B. To share their ideas and opinions
- C. To share information - verbally and visually
- D. To stay **connected**


# Demonstration of using fb to keep in touch with people i know


**Inbox** Other (2) More ▾

**Steadlife Stead Mwemba** + New Message ⚙ Actions 🔍

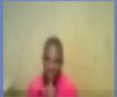
Search 🔍

 **Murphy Mugabi** Thu  
okey


 **Thulani Magubane** Tue  
↩ Cool!Its on the third,all u...

 **Roxo Gandhi** Tue  
↩ Hi! bra,its been a long ti...



 **Ntsieni Avhashoni** Tue  
Cul

 **Steadlife Stead Mwe...** Mon

Conversation started Monday

 **Steadlife Stead Mwemba** 5:45pm  
Thanx 4 accept me my bra .

 **Tshilidzi Tshiredo** 6:17pm  
Cool and keep well  
✓ Seen Mon 6:19pm

 Add Files  Add Photos Press Enter to send  **Reply**

Sponsored 📢


Can You Handle Ext...



Find A Wheelchair  
winfar.co.za



Facebook © 2013  
English (US) · Privacy

 Chat (1)

**Can you think of any ways in which Facebook could be useful in teaching?**

How many?





**Can you think of any ways in which Facebook could be useful in teaching?**

Why would it be useful?



# Some ways in which those fb features can be used

- Posing a problem statement/asking a question – and learners adding their ideas as comments

**Tom Waspe Teach**

The digital divide is a bad thing, and all schools should have lots of computers to help bridge the divide. Place your comments below.

about a month ago · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Subscribe](#)



**Modjadji Motsai Ace** it is a term coined for the disparity between the haves and the have-nots in the technology revolution. Many have feared grave consequences for those unable to access the power of the internet, however, recent reports suggest tha this divide is narrowing, rather than expanding.

01 March at 15:38 · [Like](#)



**January Nkosi Ace** Yes I agree it is bad and must be bridged, in my opinion it promotes imbalances of digital information in respect of gender, race, age group, rural and urban and other forms. The most disadvantage is the barrier it creates between these groups which will make one group to be highly skilled and the other group very less skilled. Teachers will also have difficulty in teaching learners who have access and those who do not have access because this will create two different groups in one class.

03 March at 15:21 · [Like](#)



**Linda Kruger Ace** We have a computer room filled with computers and not a single one can be used at the moment. The learners are patiently waiting for the experts to fix it. It just shows that even the haves do not always have it.

10 March at 15:45 · [Like](#)

**Tom Waspe Teach**

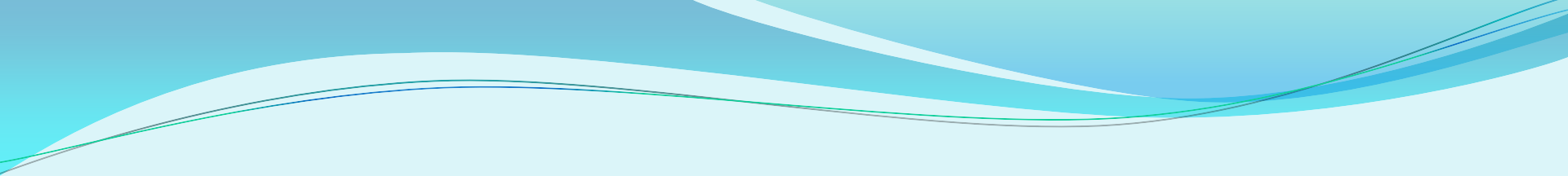
The digital divide is a bad thing, and all schools should have lots of computers to help bridge this divide.

about 3 weeks ago · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [Subscribe](#)



**Bangiswani James Banda Ace** Digital divide is cause by the lack of access to computers and internet, as well as scarce technicclaly assistance.

08 March at 16:04 · [Like](#)

- 
- You can ask learners to ask peers for help, and to help others – uploading their own resources, giving advice, providing links to useful websites



hi guys, is there anyone out there who teach L.O and social sciences gr 4. i would like to share any information concerning these 2 learning areas. which text books are you using for social sciees and L.O? chaw!

about a month ago · Like · Comment · Subscribe



#### Sibongile Sibanyoni Ace

Dear members will you please help me to find information on GIS Im teaching SS grade 8.

about a month ago · Like · Comment · Subscribe



**Leah Mojela Ace** I hope this link will help inform you on GIS because it gives you options on what GIS is, how to use it and learn more about it  
<http://www.gis.com/content/utilities>

10 February at 15:29 · Like



#### Simon Gamede Ace

This is a quick lesson plan that can serve to assist Grade 12 educators, especially beginner-educators.

#### Google Docs - Online documents, spreadsheets, presentations, surveys, file storage and more

[docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com)

Create and share your work online and access your documents from anywhere. Manage documents, spreadsheets, presentations, surveys, and more all in one easy to use productivity suite. It's easy to get started - just upload a file from your desktop.

about a month ago · Like · Comment · Subscribe



#### Simon Gamede Ace

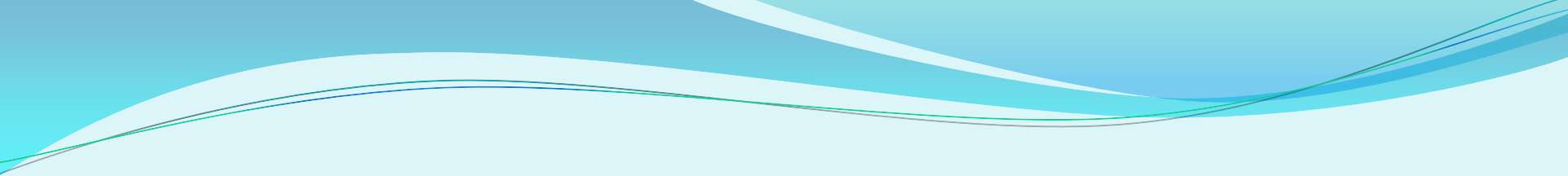
My Grade 12 History learners find difficult to differentiate between Communism and Socialism, help me how can I help them?

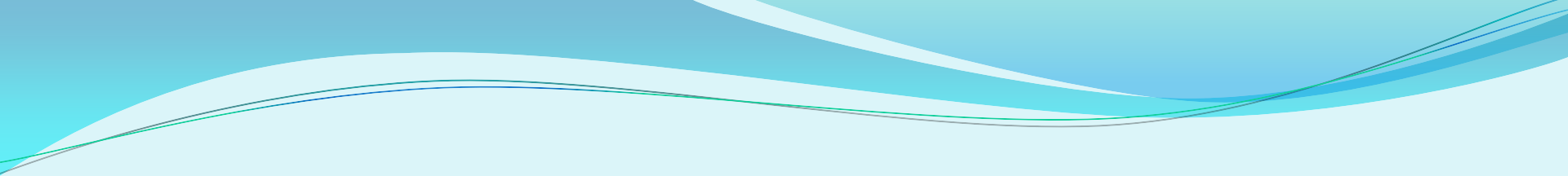
about 2 months ago · Like · Comment · Unsubscribe



**Sibongile Sibanyoni Ace** <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-socialism.htm> refer to this link on socialism.

08 February at 16:07 · Like

- 
- You can comment on learners' contributions – giving feedback on their work
  - You can also sent private messages to individuals

- 
- Post links to documents and websites you want learners to read and engage with.
  - You can also post notices and announcements to learners

# Facebook groups

Allow people with a common interest to communicate as a group on Facebook



# Groups

- Allow membership to be restricted
- Non-members can see who the members are
  - but not the content
- Members do not have to be ‘friends’
- You can create a class group or subject group.

# Groups

- Include Create Doc( which allow many people to collaborate on a document )
- It could be used for students to contribute to one piece of work from different perspectives



Tshilidzi Tshiredo

Edit Profile

FAVORITES

- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Photos
- Notes

PAGES

- Moretele EDC
- Pages Feed 16
- Like Pages 2
- Create Ad

GROUPS

- Moretele Education Dev...
- Using Facebook in Schools



Moretele Education Development Centre



About

Events

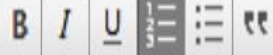
Photos

Files



Collaborative document

Create Doc



1. U need to click file
2. then type the heading,see above example(collaborative document)
3. then start collaborating
4. just remember,facebook does not allow simultaneous typing
5. then click Create Doc when you are done

Related Groups

- Laughte medicine
- Thabiso E
- Join

Sponsored

Used car: OLX  
olx.co.za



Chat (2)

# collaboration in group work

- Learners could work in groups, and contributes in various perspectives – pedagogical expert; technology expert; resources expert; planning expert.
- Then they could respond to the project question, using Doc Document and following the guidelines you have provided for them.

# Example of create Doc to enable group collaboration

The screenshot shows a Facebook interface for the 'Moretele Education Development Centre' page. The page header includes the name and navigation tabs for 'About', 'Events', 'Photos', and 'Files'. A 'Collaborative document' button is visible, with a 'Create Doc' button next to it. Below this is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold, italic, underline, bulleted list, numbered list, and link. A list of five instructions is provided, followed by a partial sentence: 'you may give learners different headings to use as template for completing group work'. The left sidebar shows the user's profile 'Tshilidzi Tshiredo' and various navigation options like 'News Feed', 'Messages', 'Events', 'Photos', and 'Notes'. The right sidebar features 'Related Groups' and a 'Sponsored' advertisement for 'Used car: OLX'.

facebook.com/tshilidzi.tshiredo?sk=info& fiona beal wants to share "Con... Moretele Education Develo...

Search for people, places and things

Tshilidzi Tshiredo Find Friends

**Tshilidzi Tshiredo**  
Edit Profile

FAVORITES

- News Feed
- Messages
- Events
- Photos
- Notes

PAGES

- Moretele EDC
- Pages Feed 16
- Like Pages 2
- Create Ad

GROUPS

- Moretele Education Dev...**
- Using Facebook in Schools
- Eastern Cape Learning C...

**Moretele Education Development Centre** About Events Photos Files

Collaborative document **Create Doc**

**B I U** [List Icons]

1. U need to click file
2. then type the heading,see above example(collaborative document)
3. then start collaborating
4. just remember,facebook does not allow simultaneous typing
5. then click Create Doc when you are done

you may give learners different headings to use as template for completing group work

Related Groups

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- Thabiso E
- Join

Sponsored

Used car: OLX  
olx.co.za

Chat (1)

# What are some of the benefits of using Facebook in these ways?

- Students enjoy it, and motivation increases – somehow the same sort of work is more engaging when done online than on paper.
- Everyone seems to participate and contribute – not only the usual confident class speakers.
- As a result, everyone gets to hear a wider range of views and information.
- The comments feature encourages learners to ‘listen’ to each other - to engage with what has been ‘said’ and respond to it

- Collaborative learning is enhanced; Doc Document feature works much like a wiki, allowing for a group to construct knowledge /information/responses etc collaboratively.
- Students tend to be supportive of one another on Facebook – and get to know each other better than they might in a big class – even if there they work in groups.
- Students begin to take more ownership of their learning – to ask more, comment more, contribute more

- Teachers can monitor progress, and give feedback on a very regular basis – on the wall, or via private messages
- Facebook provides a central place for making resources available – links to Google docs, websites and videos. Photos and video can be uploaded directly. So – in some ways, Facebook can operate a bit like a Learning Management System (LMS -like Ignite)
- Facebook is more clumsy to use than a LMS – but has the advantage of being familiar to many learners – and socially desirable.





How many of these benefits did you think of?



Thank you!