

Empowering creators

Student agency and digital safety in alternative assignments

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What is an alternative assignment?

In this case, an alternative to a traditional paper, presentation, or discussion that asks students to publicly share their work online.

Common examples include podcasts, videos, digital stories, participating in class via social media, or creating class websites or blogs.

The risks of public student work

Misuse of intellectual property

Lack of ownership felt by students

Harassment or doxxing

VALUES OF AN EMPOWERING ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT



How we can address the risks

Digital Literacy

Invite students to evaluate their work and their responsibilities as creators.

Teach about intellectual property rights -- both for students and other digital content creators.

Autonomy

Remind students that they own the work they create at UW -- and create space for them to make meaningful choices about how it's used.

Create project agreement forms and review them with the class. Allow students to say no.

Let them set their own license terms before sharing work and allow them to decide if or when their work should be removed.

Safety

Acknowledge that publicly sharing work can be vulnerable or dangerous.

Be transparent about risks.

Offer students alternate assignments if they do not want to share their work. Consider allowing students to use pseudonyms.

Resources

[Using Digital Humanities in the Classroom](#) (Battershill and Ross, 2017)

[Renewable Assignments: Student Work Adding Value to the World](#) (Hendricks, 2015)

[5 Rs for Open Pedagogy](#) (Jhangiani, 2019)

[What is Open Pedagogy?](#) (Wiley, 2013)

Examples

[UWB Open Student Work Guide](#) (Hattwig, 2019)

[Non-Major Science Students as Content Creators](#) (Miceli, 2020)

[Telling Our Stories](#) (TCOM 347, 2019)