Glenn Groulx | Developing Connected Writing Using Obsidian

Presentation Notes - 2024 ETUG Spring Workshop

"Everything is related to everything else"

* Walter Ong, Language as Hermeneutic: A Primer on the Word and Digitization, 2017

**Obsidian for Digital Journaling - ETUG Presentation**

Glenn Groulx, BEd., MDE, Dip TESOL;

University Credit, English;

Coast Mountain College

---

**What is Obsidian?**

* note-taking interface that connects ideas and media
* PKM - personal knowledge management system
* stored on local PC
* free download with lots of community plug-ins to expand usability
* lots of room to grow and develop skills as needs emerge

**Tour of My Personal Vault**

* Uploaded 25 years of old files from storage devices
* Working with only a small portion of archived content
* Now incorporating new learning projects and research topics

**Key Benefits for Literacy Learners**

* Obsidian fosters #knowledge-building
* Obsidian promotes #ownership
* Obsidian encourages #connective-writing
* Obsidian enables use of #soft-techniques

**Obsidian fosters #knowledge-building skills**

Obsidian is a localized Personal Knowledge Management #PKM system that facilitates connections and simplifies re-organization of ideas

Tools in Obsidian that organize ideas include files, folders and pages, tags, bookmarks, outgoing links and backlinks, unlinked mentions

**Obsidian promotes #ownership**

Records multiple iterations of notes that summarize, evaluate, or paraphrase content

Embeds links from various sources, and add quotes, footnotes, and citations from one’s own and others’ posts

Links to articles, web sites, podcasts, presentations, photos, files, videos,  and other multi-media content.

**Obsidian encourages #connective-writing**

- Obsidian encourages #connective-writing and requires learners to adopt a reflective stance while interacting with their own ideas, the ideas of others, and with content. ​

- Obsidian empowers students to develop the skills and processes to learn as autonomous, self-regulated lifelong learners. ​

- Learners using Obsidian independently ‘engage in internalized dialogue with the very distant tutor’ (Anderson & Dron, 2014, page 74, from Teaching Crowds, Learning and Social Media).

**Obsidian enables the use of soft techniques** (Dron, 2023).

The more we use Obsidian for actively connecting ideas, our minds change by using it and recursively we change how we use the technology;​

- We learn more "adjacent possible emergent paths" that were not there before as an additive process ​(Dron, 2023, pg. 171).

- A tool like Obsidian plays a part in our cognition, leveraging our thinking to new and different levels (Dron, 2023, pages 171-172, from How Education Works)

---

My Contact Details:

Glenn Groulx, B.Ed, MDE, Dipl. TESOL

Email: ggroulx@coastmountaincollege.ca

Blog: [www.walkingstickblogger.com](http://www.walkingstickblogger.com)

---

**REFERENCES**

Anderson & Dron, 2014, Teaching Crowds, Learning and Social Media

Dron, 2023, How Education Works

Ong, 2017, Language as Hermeneutic: A Primer on the Word and Digitization