



According to Danah Boyd and Nicole Ellison, a social network site “refers to websites that allow individuals to construct a public or semi-public profile within the system and formally articulate their relationship to other users in a way that is visible to anyone who can access their profile.”

<http://www.danah.org/papers/worksinprogress/SNSHistory.html>

Some examples of social network sites:

Facebook, MySpace, You Tube, del.icio.us, Friendster, LinkedIn, Orkut, Riotpix, Flickr, Relationship Capital, elgg

This is obviously not a complete list!

The aim of this assignment is to get you to engage with a social networking site and reflect on that engagement critically. In order to be able to do this you will need to research social networking as well as experience it. There are extensive lists of relevant material at the following places:

<http://del.icio.us/tag/socialnetworking>

<http://www.danah.org/SNSResearch.html>

You should aim to read at least one article relevant to your social networking site a week – and keep a record of them for your bibliography!

Each week for 6 weeks you should aim to write around 200-300 words.

You can write in a paper journal or create a blog to write in so that you can link out to relevant sites when you want to. You can create a free blog at these sites: IT IS NOT COMPULSORY to keep a blog, it is only recommended.

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://www.wordpress.com>

<http://uniblogs.org> (this is a great site with lots of help videos to get you started!)

At the end of the six weeks, write a brief (up to 500 words) academically informed conclusion about your experiences.

To submit your blog, send the URL to your tutor by the due date. If you do use a blog, please ensure it is appropriately named – that is, please use your real name in it somewhere! If you choose to submit a paper journal, submit it as you would an essay.

You will be assessed on the degree to which your entries demonstrate a **critical engagement** with both the resources you have read in the course of your research and the social networking site itself. You are expected to write in a clear, academic style (as you would for an essay) and reference any external material that you use as both citations in your text and in the form of a comprehensive properly referenced bibliography.

Total word length: 6 x 200 - 300 and a 300-500 word conclusion – you do the maths!!

Due date: 5 November 2010