

## Building an Online Community of Practice

<b>Course Type/ Level:</b>	For any course that is moving online mid-semester. This should be done synchronously.
<b>Assignment Goals:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Engage students in defining what their community of practice will look like</li><li>2) Enlist student help in creating a new learning space</li><li>3) Create a class manifesto on their community of practice.</li></ol>
<b>Materials to Provide Students:</b>	Excerpts from the key thinkers in the Community of Practice sphere ( <a href="#">just pages 1 and 2</a> ).
<b>Technological Resources Needed:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Mentimeter.com</li><li>2) What's app or another way for students to communicate</li><li>3) Bluejeans/Zoom or some way of going live with students</li><li>4) Moodle or a forum on which to post</li></ol>
<b>Preparatory Steps:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Break the students into groups of three and make sure they have a way to connect with each other for discussion</li><li>2) Set up a Mentimeter on mentimeter.com. Use the word cloud option and ask a question similar to the following: "what words, phrases, or ideas come to mind when you hear the word community." Select the option that allows each student to give multiple answers</li><li>3) Mentimeter will give you a code to send to students when you are ready to have them answer the question. Be prepared to screen share with them (through Bluejeans, Zoom or google hangout so they can see the results coming in)</li><li>4) You will have a second Mentimeter after the silent reading, so set this up in advance. The question should be: "Now that you have read the Wenger-Trayner excerpts, list language fragments of no more than four words that are important to how they are defining communities of practice." You will share this code with them for menti.com when it's time to do the activity.</li></ol>

<p><b>Tasks/Activities:</b> (Outline of the steps this activity or assignment requires)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Schedule a time when students can log into menti.com from their phones or computer, give them the mentimeter code, and ask them to answer the question that appears on their screen</li> <li>2) Download the word cloud and share with them on what's app or email</li> <li>3) Have them break into their small groups and discuss the following: "Looking at this word cloud, what do you believe is essential to your educational experience and why?" Have them write collaborative statements of no more than three sentences and post on the forum (Moodle or whatsapp)</li> <li>4) Sent them this <a href="#">article</a> and have them read from the bottom of page one to the bottom of page two on their own – give them 10 minutes, circling verbs that are important to the text</li> <li>5) Do the mentimeter activity mentioned in number four from preparatory steps (above) by directing students to menti.com and having them insert the code.</li> <li>6) You can screen share the results with the students.</li> </ol> <p>Now go offline and tell the students to work separately on the following (with a deadline of the next day):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Have them go back to their groups and write a clear manifesto that begins with: "As a Community of Practice in X class, we commit to..." – tell them they must include at least two language fragments from the Wenger-Trayner and from the first brainstorm on the word community</li> <li>2) They must collaboratively choose and image that speaks to the kind of community of practice they are asserting</li> <li>3) They can put the text and image into Powerpoint or another program that allows images and upload it to the Moodle</li> <li>4) Invite studnets to comment in the forum</li> </ol>
<p><b>Additional Tips or Advice:</b></p>	<p>This will take an hour and a half to really get the students working together, thinking and writing.</p>