

Harvesting the Web: Finding & Using Online, Open Resources in Your Courses

Pre Conference Workshop, May 11, 2011



Lead by Jean Kent

Workshop Website: <http://harvest-the-web.blogspot.com/>

Harvesting the Web Pre-Conference Workshop

Workshop Overview

This hands-on workshop is designed for faculty who want to find and use online, open resources in their courses. It is based on a workshop I gave two years ago but it has been updated to include the Open Course Library Project.

By the end of the workshop, faculty will have identified at least two or three resources to use in their teaching and be able to share them in a variety of ways with their students.

Workshop Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Overview of the workshop website and resources
- III. Finding Video Content (YouTube, YouTube EDU, and TED)
- IV. Finding Learning Objects (Wisc-Online and MERLOT)
- V. Techniques for Sharing Resources with Students
- VI. Open Course Library Project Overview
- VII. Finding Open Textbooks
- VIII. Finding Open Courses
- IX. Copyright
- X. Workshop Evaluation

Account Information

YouTube

User Name:

Password:

Wisc-Online

User Name:

Password:

MERLOT

User Name:

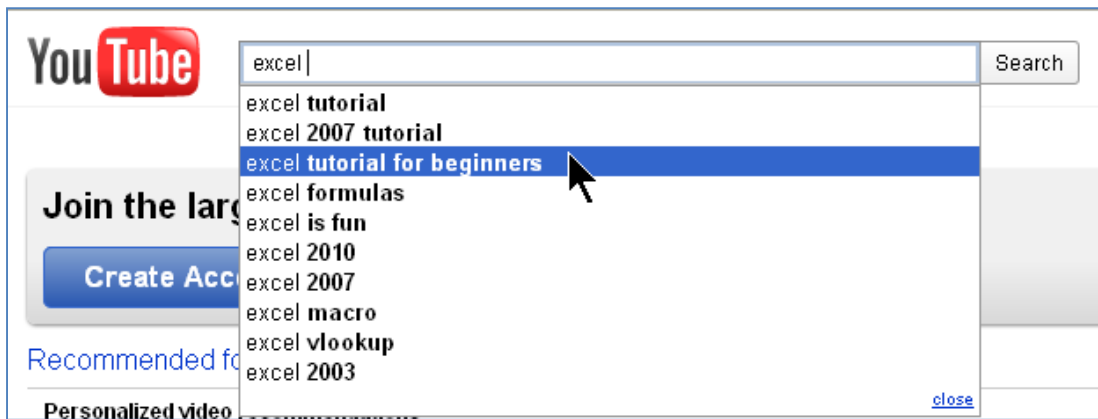
Password:

Video Content

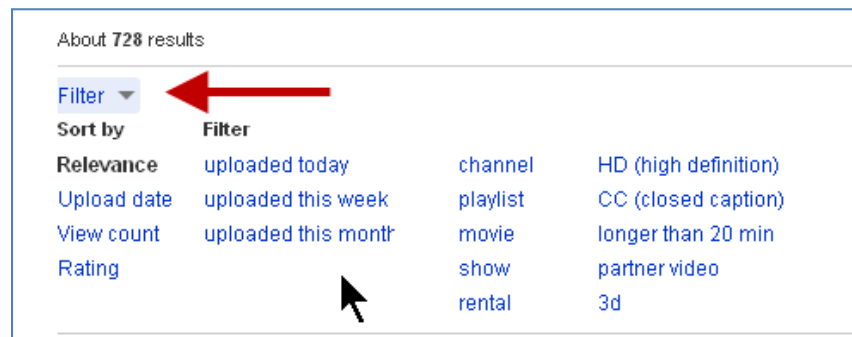
YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>)

Every minute, 10 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube. So, there's tons of content but the challenge is finding relevant, appropriate, and good videos for teaching. Here are some tips:

1. Begin typing keywords into the search box. Then select a phrase if it matches what you want to find and click the **Search** button. See the figure below:



2. A list of videos will appear and you can use the **Filter** option if desired to improve your results. Click on the **Filter** link as shown in the figure below:



If your initial search has yielded too many results, you can try some of these filters. You can sort by the upload date, view count and rating. Large view counts indicate popularity which *sometimes* translates into quality. Notice you can filter by videos that are closed captioned which improves their accessibility. See the example from [eLearning Centralia](#) on “Nested If() Functions in Excel” on the following page. The captions display at the bottom of the video window.

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The screenshot shows a YouTube video player with the title "Nested If () Functions in Excel" and "eLearningCentralia 157 videos" and a "Subscribe" button. The video content displays an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

Name	Number of Homes sold	Award
Jane Doe	5	
Elvis Presley	11	
Dean Martin	8	
Doris Day	7	
Duke Ellington	4	

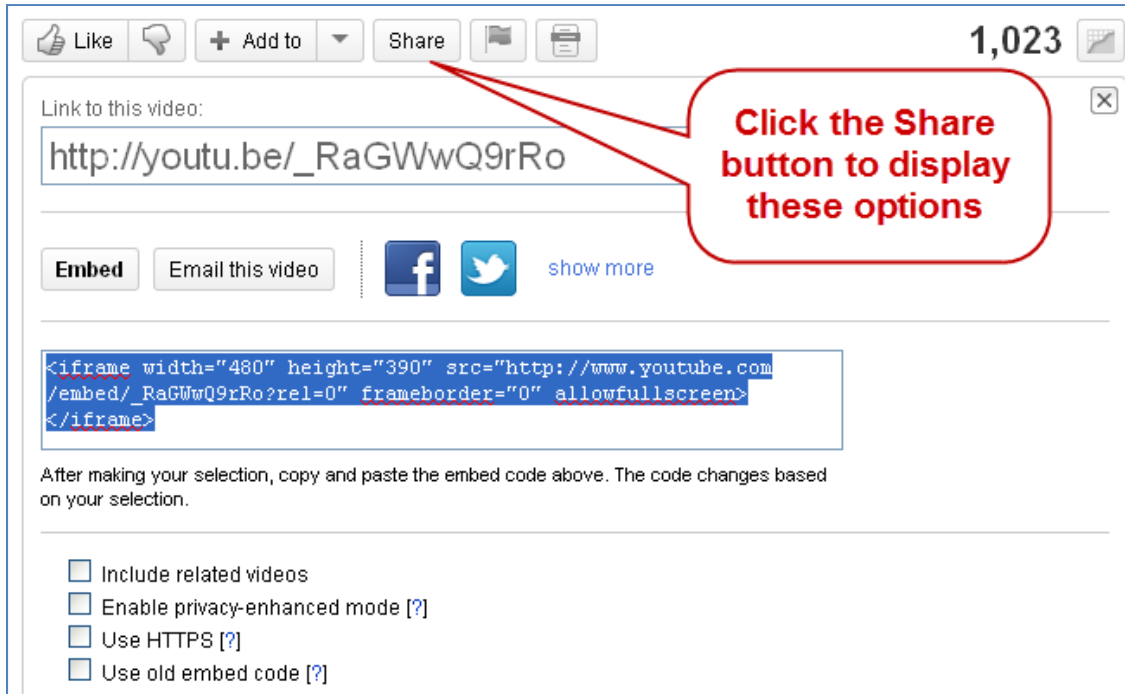
Below the spreadsheet is an "Award Chart" table:

Homes Sold	Award
10	Golden Apple
7	Silver
5	Bronze
4	No Award

A red box highlights the "Award" column in the chart table, with a text overlay that reads: "I'm going to begin by typing this formula myself rather". The video player interface includes a progress bar at 0:09 / 4:59, a "CC" icon, "360p" resolution, and a view count of "1,023".

3. Look on the right side of the screen and notice that YouTube provides a list of video suggestions which can be a good way to find other useful videos.
4. TIP: Before you use a YouTube video with your students, preview it entirely.
5. YouTube gives you several ways to share videos with your students and some of them require that you have a YouTube account. During the workshop today, I'd like you to set up an account you can use for teaching (if you don't have one already) so you can take advantage of or at least try out some of these options.
 - a. Add a video to a **playlist**. *Account required.*
 - b. Make a video a **favorite**. *Account required.*
 - c. **Link** to a video from a web page or Angel Learning.
 - d. **Embed** a video so it plays in a web page or in Angel Learning.
 - e. **Email** a video. *Account required.*
 - f. Share it to **Facebook** if you're using Facebook with your students. *Accounts required.*
 - g. Share it to **Twitter** if you're using Twitter with your students. *Accounts required.*
6. All these options appear directly under the video as shown in the Figure on the next page.

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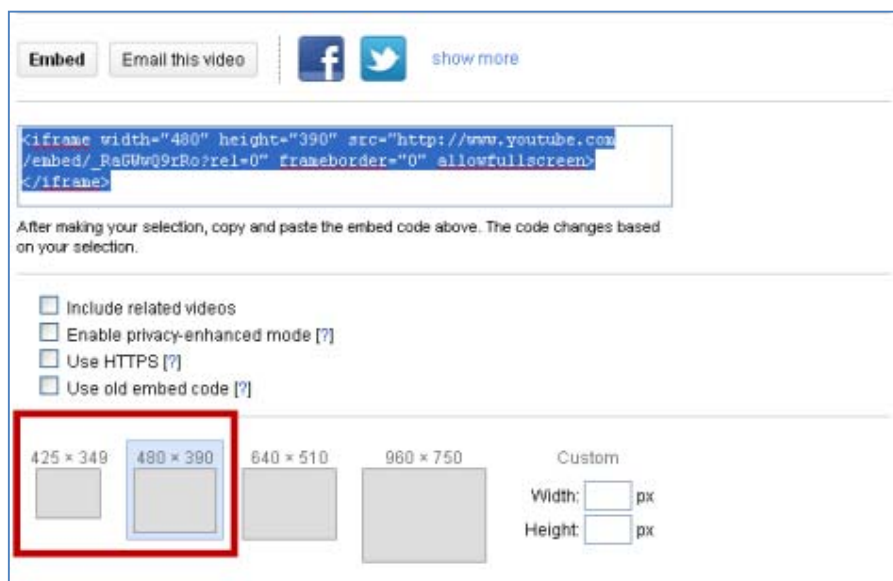
The screenshot shows the YouTube sharing interface. At the top, there are buttons for Like, Add to, Share, and Print. A callout box with a red border and red text points to the Share button, containing the text: "Click the Share button to display these options". Below the Share button, a text box contains the link: http://youtu.be/_RaGWwQ9rRo. Below the link are buttons for Embed, Email this video, and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, along with a "show more" link. A code block contains the following HTML code:

```
<iframe width="480" height="390" src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/_RaGWwQ9rRo?rel=0" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen>
</iframe>
```

Below the code block, there is a note: "After making your selection, copy and paste the embed code above. The code changes based on your selection." At the bottom, there are four unchecked checkboxes:

- Include related videos
- Enable privacy-enhanced mode [?]
- Use HTTPS [?]
- Use old embed code [?]

- To create a link, copy the link code (in the example above this would be http://youtu.be/_RaGWwQ9rRo) to the clipboard and add it to a page in your Angel Learning course.
- To embed the video so it plays from a lesson page in Angel Learning (recommended so students don't end up on the YouTube site), follow the steps below.
 - Make sure the four options below the embed code are unchecked.
 - Select an appropriate size for the video – probably the smallest dimensions or the one just to the right of the smallest. See the figure below:



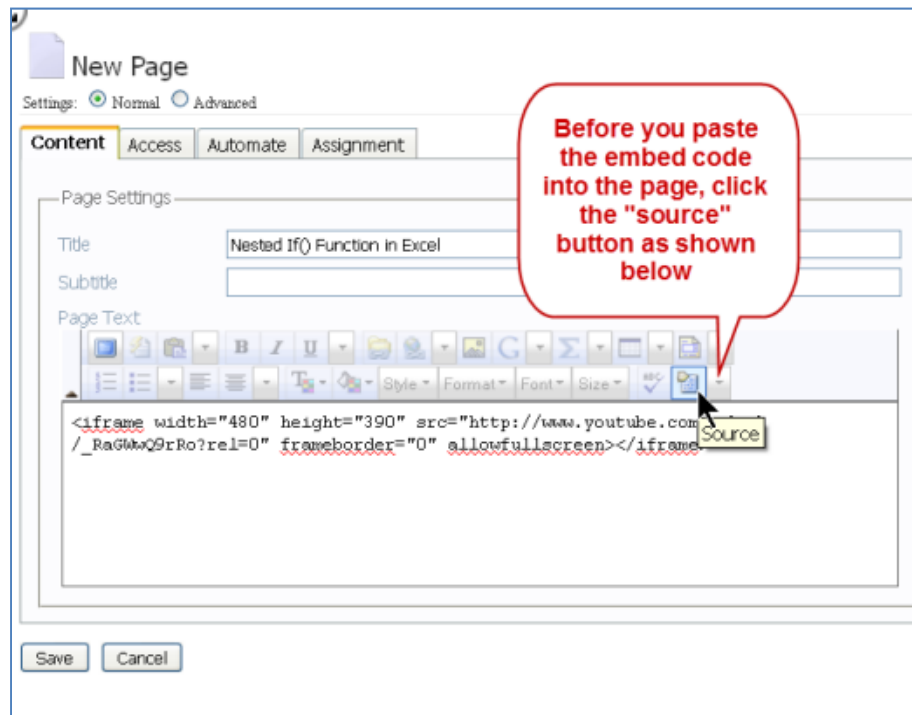
The screenshot shows the YouTube embedding options. At the top, there are buttons for Embed, Email this video, and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, along with a "show more" link. Below the buttons is the same HTML code block as in the previous screenshot. Below the code block, there is a note: "After making your selection, copy and paste the embed code above. The code changes based on your selection." At the bottom, there are four unchecked checkboxes:

- Include related videos
- Enable privacy-enhanced mode [?]
- Use HTTPS [?]
- Use old embed code [?]

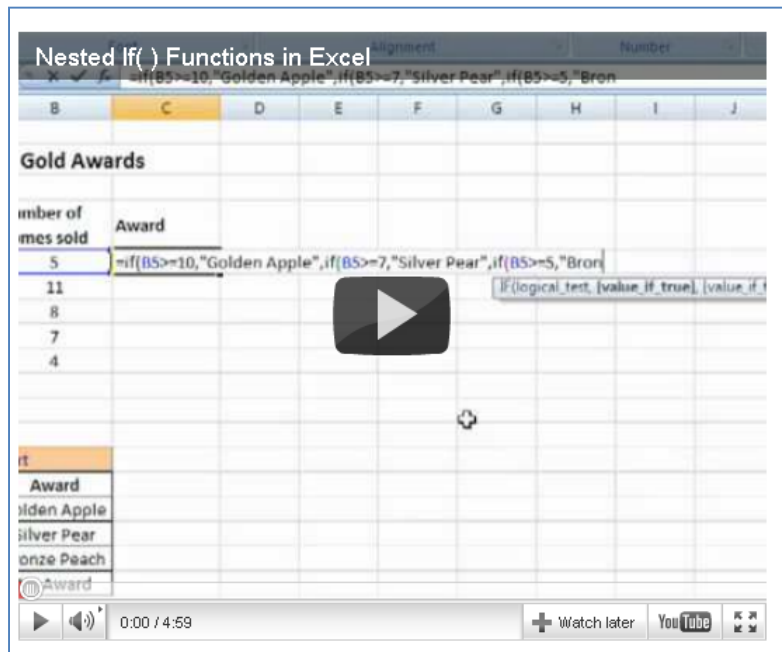
Below the checkboxes, there are five size selection options: 425 x 349, 480 x 390, 640 x 510, 980 x 750, and Custom. The 425 x 349 and 480 x 390 options are highlighted with a red box. To the right of the size options are input fields for Width and Height, both labeled "px".

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- c. Click inside the embed code box to select all the code then copy it to the clipboard. The code must be copied as “source” into a new page in Angel. See the figure below.



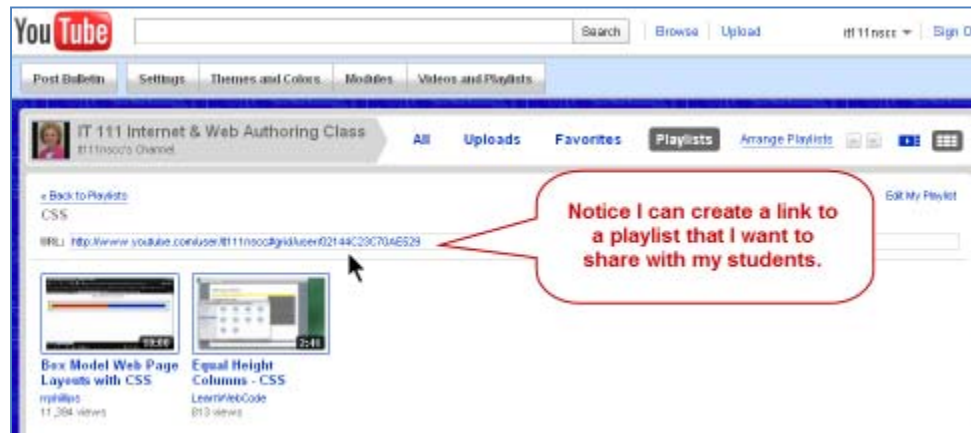
- d. Your students will see the opening frame of the video with a **Play** button when you've saved the new page. See the figure below.



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9. If you sign up for a YouTube account, you can create “**playlists**” which you can share with your students. Here is an example of a playlist I created for my Intro to Web Authoring students.



YouTube EDU (<http://www.youtube.com/edu>)

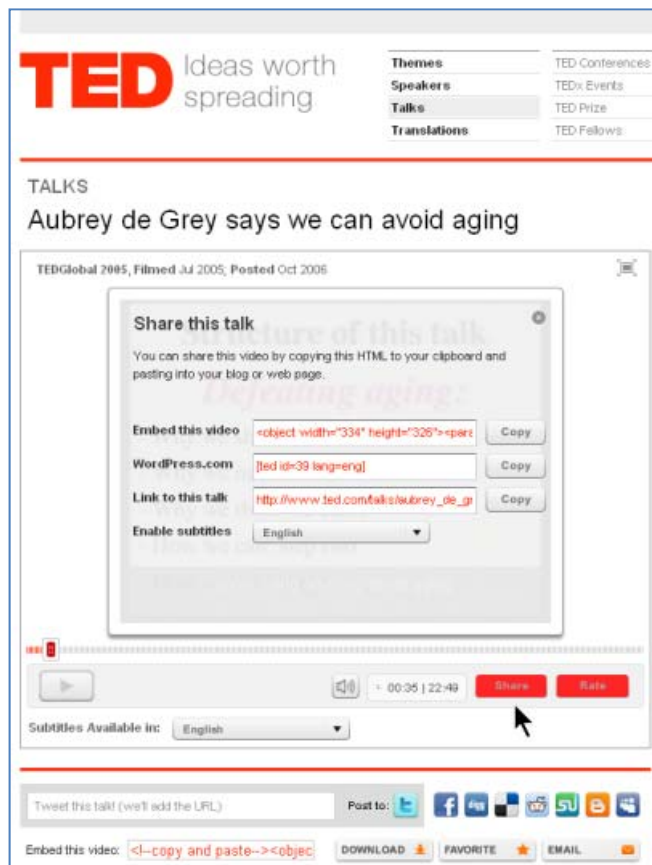
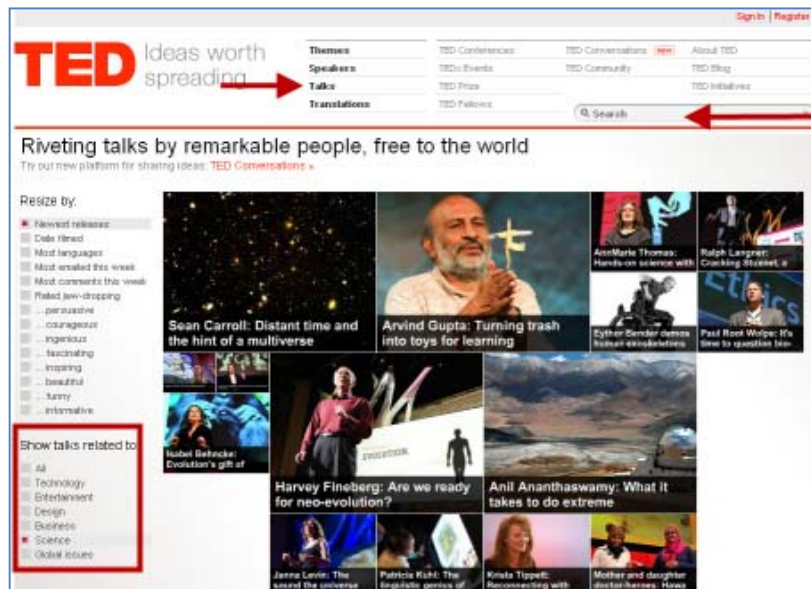
Over 100 colleges and universities are placing lectures and other content into YouTube EDU. Many of the videos available are standard lectures (i.e., “talking heads”) and they are longer than I like to use. However, an expert or highly skilled lecturer might be appropriate for your students so you may want to do some searching in this special area of YouTube, too. And, of course you can link to, embed, add to playlists and favorite these videos just like any YouTube video.

Please note that YouTube limits institutions to one EDU channel and someone with “authority” from your institution must apply to be approved.

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TED Ideas worth spreading (<http://www.ted.com/>)

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design and this website provides access to over 900 talks conducted at its annual conferences and events. The talks are usually about 20 minutes long and cover a wide range of topics. They are usually engaging and thought provoking.



You can search by themes (e.g., technology, business, culture, science, etc.), by speaker or by the talks themselves. Once you've located a talk, you can create a link to it or embed it into a web page or Angel Learning. You can also share it on Twitter, Facebook, a blog, and many other social media sites. Some of the talks have subtitles which provide accessibility. See the figure to the left.

The talks can be watched on a computer, video iPod, iPhone, or other mobile device that supports video. Again, I encourage you to view the entire talk before using it with your students.

Learning Objects

Wisc-Online – Online learning objects repository (<http://www.wisc-online.com>)

Wisc-Online currently contains over 2500 learning objects which are free to link to. The website defines learning objects as web-based, self contained, small chunks of learning. When you create a free account, you can create your own collections of favorite objects and links.

1. On the left side of the screen there are seven major categories of learning objects. When you click on one of them, several subcategories are displayed. In this example, I clicked on **Business** and then **Business Law** which has 3 objects. See the figure below.



2. Click on the thumbnail to see the object. Some objects have been rated and some have comments, too. See the figure on the next page.

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3. To link to an object, open it, select the URL in the address box of your browser, then copy the link to the clipboard. Create a link in Angel Learning or a web page.
4. It may take time to find learning objects that are suited to your courses and as always, I encourage you to test the ones you think you may want to share with your students.
5. Note, as an educator, you can freely link to any of these learning objects even the ones that can be purchased.

MERLOT: Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching **(<http://www.merlot.org>)**

MERLOT has over 28,000 free learning materials organized by broad subject area. In addition to the materials themselves, MERLOT includes links to assignments that can be used, experts listed in a “Virtual Speakers Bureau,” and links to colleagues in your discipline.

1. You can search by keyword and also take advantage of an advanced search option. The advanced search allows you to enter keywords, a subject category, material type (e.g., simulation, animation, tutorial, drill and practice, etc.) an audience (e.g., Lower Division, General Ed, etc.) and several other variables.
2. You can also browse the collection by drilling down from the broad categories to more narrow ones. To view the learning objects, specifically simulations, on human anatomy, I selected **Science and Technology** → **Biology** → **Human Anatomy** and **Simulations** in the Material Types list and found 10 learning objects. See the figure on the next page.

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Browse Path **All > Science and Technology > Biology > Human Anatomy**

Biology

- [Botany \(12\)](#)
- [Cytology \(22\)](#)
- [Development \(3\)](#)
- [Ecology \(32\)](#)
- [Evolution \(38\)](#)
- [General \(10\)](#)
- [Genetics \(40\)](#)
- [Human Anatomy \(10\)](#)** ←
- [Life \(4\)](#)
- [Microbiology \(17\)](#)
- [Molecular Biology \(37\)](#)
- [Physiology \(44\)](#)
- [Zoology \(14\)](#)

Material Types

- [Tutorial \(49\)](#)
- [Collection \(19\)](#)
- [Animation \(57\)](#)
- [Assignment \(5\)](#)
- [Case Study \(2\)](#)
- [Simulation \(10\)](#)** ←
- [Quiz/Test \(11\)](#)
- [Reference Material \(70\)](#)
- [Presentation \(39\)](#)
- [Open Textbook \(3\)](#)
- [Assessment Tool \(1\)](#)
- [Online Course \(3\)](#)

New Search: Human Anatomy

Items 1 - 10 shown of 10 results

[Introduction to Cardiothoracic Imaging](#)
Author: C. Carl Jaffe
A detailed interactive program that offers a broad overview of chest and cardiac diagnostic imaging. It...
Type: Simulation
Date Added: Jun 07, 2000
Date Modified: Sep 22, 2008


[Neurological Eye Simulator](#)
Author: Rick Lasslo
A training simulator for medical students designed to show the effects of damage to different eye muscles...
Type: Simulation
Date Added: Jul 21, 2000
Date Modified: May 03, 2011

[Virtual Cardiology Lab](#)
Author: Joseph Perpich, Dennis Liu, Satoshi Amagai, Thomas Trill
In this simulation you examine three patients with heart trouble using various diagnostic devices plus...
Type: Simulation
Date Added: Jul 21, 2000
Date Modified: Mar 28, 2010


- Now you can browse through the list of materials till you find one that you might want to use with your students. Click on the title link to get more information about the learning object. **The eSkeltons Project** looks interesting so I click on the **Go to Material** link to view it. See the figures below:

Material Detail

The eSkeltons Project



Click on Go to Material to view the Simulation.

Location: [Go to Material](#) 

Material Type: [Simulation](#)

Technical Format: Other

Date Added to MERLOT: May 25, 2000

Date Modified in MERLOT: April 25, 2011

[\[Report Broken Link\]](#)

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4. Once again, to share this with your students, copy the URL and use it to create a link on a PowerPoint slide, on a web page, or a lesson page in Angel Learning.
5. Please note there are many ways to search through MERLOT. You can use key word searches and also limit by type of material. For example a search on **earthquakes** with **simulation** as the type of material turns up three items. One is an interactive simulation that allows students to learn the principles behind the determination of the epicenter and Richter magnitude of earthquakes. See figure below:



Suggestions for Sharing Materials with Your Students

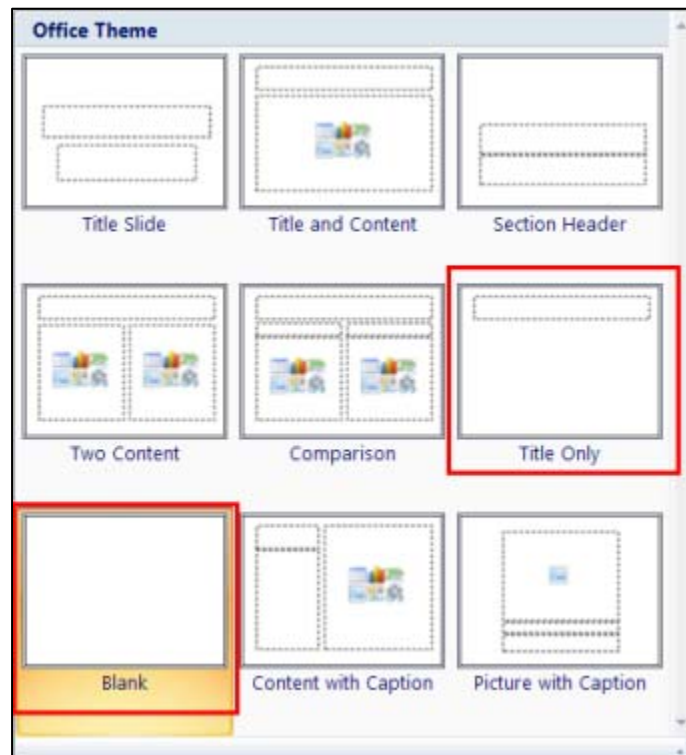
There are several options for incorporating these newly found materials into your classes.

- ✓ Use Angel Learning or your CMS.
- ✓ Use a web page or site created with Dreamweaver, ExpressionWeb, etc.
- ✓ Use a blog like Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com>) or WordPress (<http://www.wordpress.com>). I've successfully used Blogger blogs for many classes and workshops, including this one!
- ✓ Use a wiki like WetPaint (<http://www.wetpaint.com>) or Wikispaces (<http://www.wikispaces.com/>).
- ✓ Use PowerPoint.
- ✓ Use Word and save your document as a web page.

Sharing OERs with PowerPoint

It's easy to create text links in PowerPoint but a more interesting way of linking to videos and learning object is creating a screen snapshot image and using that as your link. Here's how.

1. Create a slide using a layout that will work with a screen snapshot image. For example, use **Title Only** or **Blank**. See the figure below.

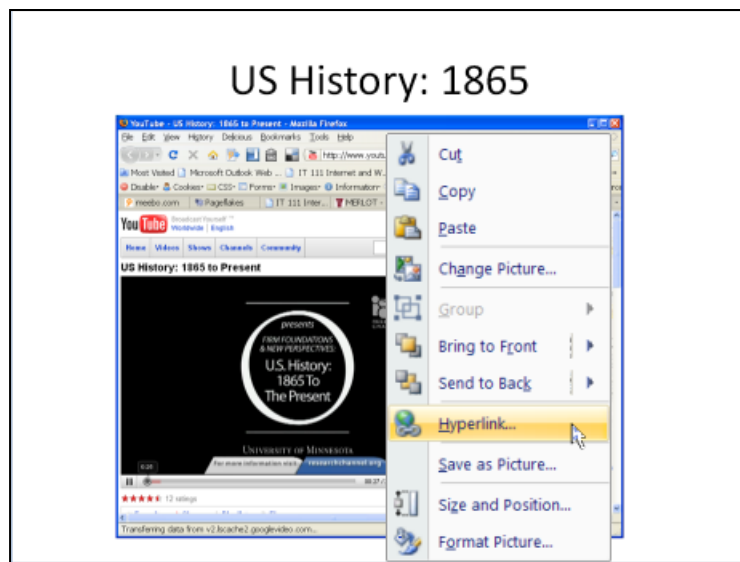


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2. Locate the web page that has content you want to link to. Resize your browser window – **make it smaller** – so the screen snapshot won't be too big for your slide. Hold the **Alt** key while you tap the **PrtSc** (Print Screen) key. This copies an image of the window to the clipboard.
3. Return to PowerPoint and press **Ctrl + V** (or **Cmd + V** on a Mac) to paste the screen snapshot into the slide. You might have to adjust the image if it's too big. Use a corner to make the adjustment so the image keeps its aspect ratio and doesn't look distorted. See the figure below.



4. Return to your web browser and highlight the URL for the page. Press **Ctrl + C** (or **Cmd + C** on a Mac) to copy it to the clipboard.
5. Go back to PowerPoint. Right click on the image and select **Hyperlink...** from the menu. See the figure below.

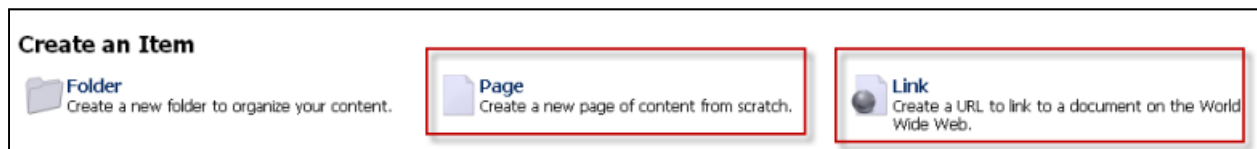


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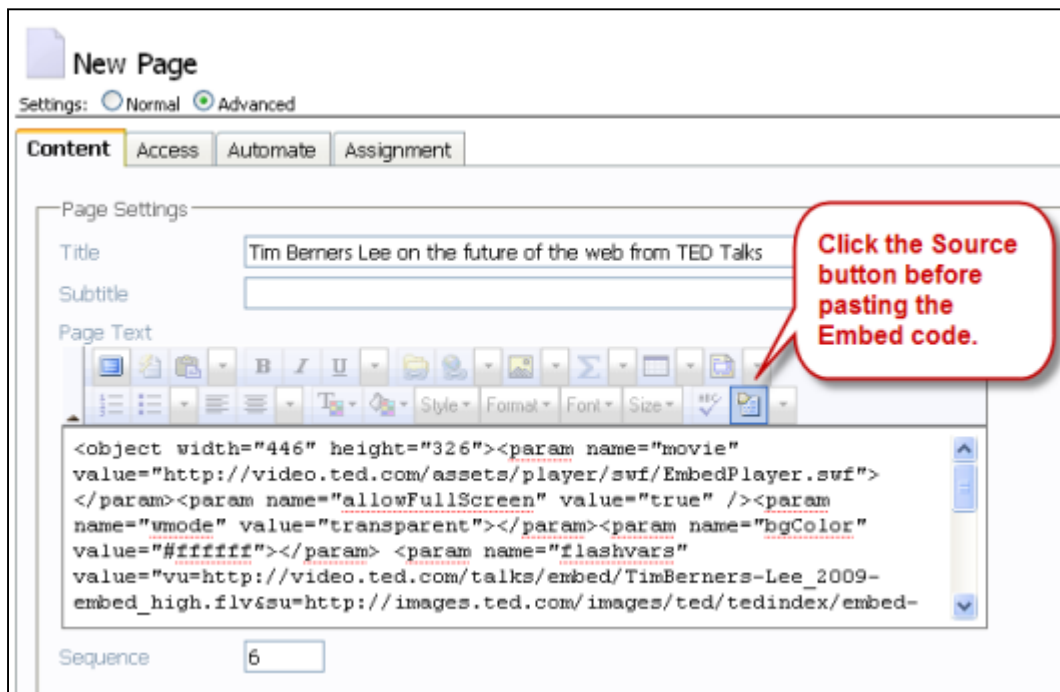
6. In the **Insert Hyperlink** dialog box, paste (**Ctrl + V**) the URL into the **Address** box. Then click **OK**.
7. When you give your lecture, click on the image and the page will open in the web browser.

Sharing OERs with Angel Learning

1. Login to your Angel Learning account and select the course you want to add content to. Click on the **Lessons Tab**.
2. Click on the **Add Content** link and select an appropriate item for the material you want to add. I suggest that you add a **Page** or a **Link**. See the figure below.



3. To **Embed a video** from YouTube or TED, first copy the Embed code to the clipboard. Next create a new page. Add a title then click the **Source** button from the Page Text Menu. Now paste the Embed code into the text box. See the figure below.

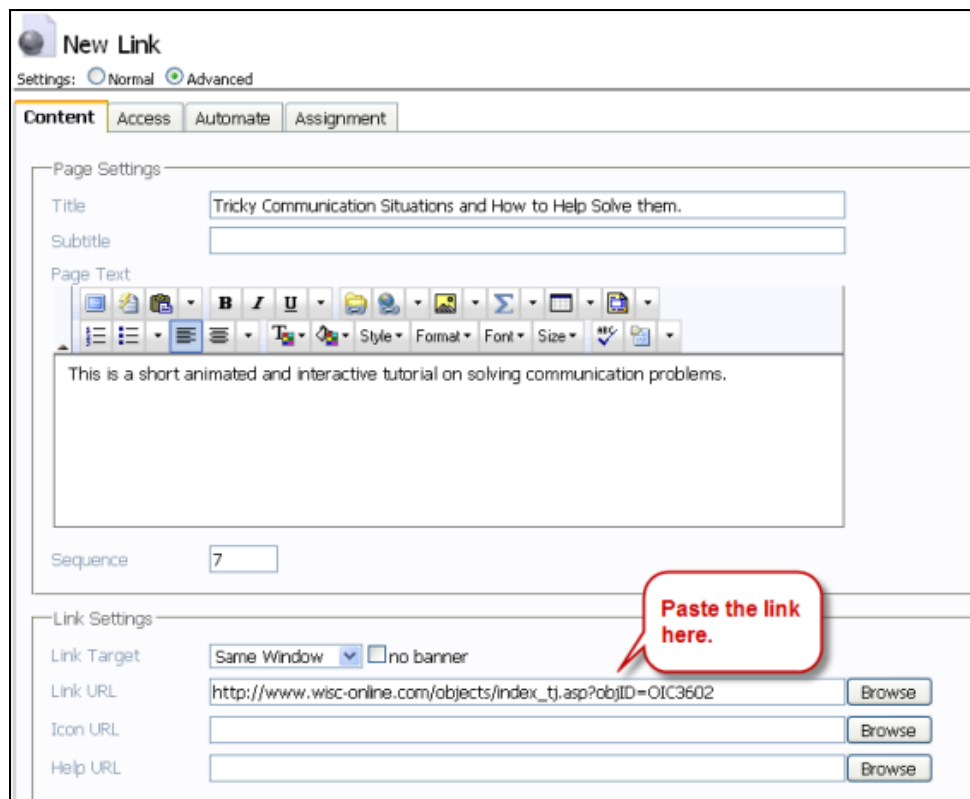


Your students will be able to view the video from your Angel Learning classroom. See the figure on the next page.

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4. To add a link to a resource (video, learning object, etc.) first copy the link to the clipboard. Then select the **Link** item from the **Add Content** options. Add a title and a description, then paste the link into the Link URL box. See the figure below.

A screenshot of a "New Link" form. The form has tabs for "Content", "Access", "Automate", and "Assignment". Under "Page Settings", there are fields for "Title" (containing "Tricky Communication Situations and How to Help Solve them."), "Subtitle", and "Page Text" (containing "This is a short animated and interactive tutorial on solving communication problems."). There is a "Sequence" field with the value "7". Under "Link Settings", there is a "Link Target" dropdown set to "Same Window" and a "no banner" checkbox. The "Link URL" field contains "http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=OIC3602" and has a "Browse" button. There are also "Browse" buttons for "Icon URL" and "Help URL". A red speech bubble with the text "Paste the link here." points to the "Link URL" field.

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5. Click the **Save** button. Here is what your students will see.



Open Course Library Project

After a brief introduction to the resources available on the workshop website for the Open Course Library Project, you'll have time to explore the courses and OERs (Open Educational Resources) that have been identified as useful for supporting them. When you find a resource you might like to use, open Word (or your email account) and create a document (or email message) with links to the resources.

Open Textbooks

Again, after a short introduction to the resources on the workshop website, you'll have time to look for an open textbook if this is of interest to you. Copy links for potential open textbook candidates to your Word document or an email message.

Open Courses

The workshop website includes links you'll have time to explore if you are interested in reviewing open courses. Use Word to keep track of the links for courses you'd like to share with students or even use for your own learning.