General Information:

I have chosen Google Classroom (https://classroom.google.com/h (Links to an external site.)) and Blackboard (http://www.blackboard.com/ (Links to an external site.)) as the websites that I want to compare. Both of these are Learning Management Systems that help facilitate an online class. My final project I want to revolve around a Class website or Learning Management System that I can use in my classroom. I use flipped classroom and want to have a place that is easily accessible for students and parents. Both of these websites or LMS require your institution to have paid for their services. Both of these services allow a teacher or student to access information in a well organized system that the teacher has set up.

System

Dell Inspiron 15 running Windows 10, Intel Core i3 5005U Cpu, 2 GHz, 6 GB RAM.

Google Chrome

Cable Modem, Charter 100mb high speed internet.

Design

These two LMS are meant for easy set-up on instructors. They are designed so that you can easily have students added to the class, set-up your information, and design how you want information and assignments to roll out to your students. Google Classroom is a relatively new website that was created by Google for K-12 teachers and students. Blackboard has been dominating the college world for sometime now. Both of these have their value in how they are laid out for teachers to set-up their classes.

DIfferences are that:

- Google is more of a basic website for your class. It allows for items to be stored, discussions to be had, and assignments to be given out.
- Blackboard though has a lot more tools at their disposal, you have video chat, messaging, set-up groups, group discussions that are private, and a whole lot more.

Scenario 1:
Student uses Google Classroom to get their assignment. They will log on and click on the assignment, which has a google document attached. They will read the directions and have to go onto another website to collaboratively talk with each other. They will also have to go to another website to record their part of the assignment. When finished they can attach everything to the assignment and click turn in.

Scenario 2:
Student uses Blackboard to get their assignment. This student will click on the assignment and be able to stay in blackboard to communicate with their group or other students. They will also be able to use voicethread to make their video without leaving blackboard. When finished they will also attach what they have done to the assignment and turn in.

Content

Both of these websites have an easy user account set-up and for most they already have their accounts given by their school or employer. The only way to really get trial versions of these is to have your school get trials but users would find that the websites allow a very diverse amount of interaction. You can easily manage your classroom LMS through apps or the website and with little difficulty. Both websites have tutorial videos and online support for anyone having trouble setting up or on the student end.

Credibility

Both Sites have great reviews and credibility in the education world. They have great customer support which helps their sites get even better. They don't allow users that are unauthorized to be in your classes or on your website, which allows for information to be secure. This allows students to have their thoughts and work secure from the outside world. Both companies have a standing relationship with the education community so schools keep coming back to them year after year.

Peer Feedback:

Jessica Belk:

I always thought Blackboard was the dominant LMS, but I've noticed more and more institutions using Canvas. My college is currently in the process of switching from Blackboard to Canvas, and I've heard instructors say good things about it.

I'm pretty familiar with how Blackboard works, but I'm not familiar with Google Classroom. It appears that I can't explore it without a school account. Does it allow for grading of assignments? Blackboard has some nice grading features (like the markup and commenting tools), but I feel like it falls short for my needs.

Also, is Google Hangouts not integrated in Google Classroom somehow? I would think it would be easy to utilize that for video chatting.

My Response:

You can easily grade assignments that are attached and give grades and return work to students. The system isn't what schools use for their grades so you end up having to put in grades twice if you use Classroom grading system. Google Hangouts is a great video chatting website/app but isn't directly integrated into Google Classroom, you have to go to Hangouts to use it. I like Blackboard and have used it for years but Mizzou is slowly transferring over to Canvas. I like Canvas in some ways but can easily get lost in what accomplish each week.

Brooke Roberts-Higgins:

So you are looking at how a website and an LMS might work hand in hand to provide support for instruction in your classroom. I get the chance to work with teachers who are developing both a public and private (password protected) webspace to support many needs and audiences that they communicate/work with. As you continue to plan your class website you might consider what

limitations a private LMS has and how your public website might overcome that. Is your school a Google school?

As a Google Certified Trainer would agree that Google Classroom is fairly new (released in August of 2015), but with so many districts "going Google" it is an option many teachers and students have access to without incurring extra costs. It is very simple to manage, set up, and interact with but it does take an understanding in how to use Google Drive, Calendar, and Gmail. In addition to what you shared about Classroom, it also provides an integrated calendar, custom assessment/feedback features, differentiation options on assignments, file creation/management, and home/school connection. There are also many 3rd party apps/extensions that can work with Classroom to enhance its capabilities like pushed content to a class or sharing websites between students and teacher. The biggest "complaint" I hear these days from teachers is the lack of a grade book or a way to push grades into another program.

Good luck with your site. I can't wait to see what you put together.

My Response:

Brooke,

This is my hope. I want a website to work as an LMS. I want a one stop shopping because so many parents and students in my district get lost in the button clicking. When all teachers do something different this would simplify our lives.

I love Google Classroom but for parents they need to visibly see what their students are working on. Students could show them but sometimes instead of asking them they just take the students word. This would allow the parent to access the material too.

Alex Berger:

Both Google classroom and Blackboard once I logged in both seemed fairly easy to navigate with the different links. Exploring both of the site I like how Google gives you the ability to create classwork and test using their programs. I also like how you are able to link your Google drive accounts