SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES AS TOOLS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING
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The booming of technology gave birth to Social Media. Social networking sites or SNS such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have been used by teenagers in a daily basis in many purposes. Many would log in to their accounts to get information about latest news stories, to be updated about their loved ones, to communicate to other people and to spend their spare time surfing the endless possibilities of the internet.

As students, nowadays, tend to spend more of their time engaging in activities through social media, 21st century teachers could take advantage of it and use it as a tool for teaching and learning. It can complement effective and efficient teaching approaches that can stimulate the interests of the learners to engage themselves in communication, critical and creative thinking, cooperative learning, and problem solving tasks that will develop their holistic skills.

Social Networking Sites can promote active learning for students. Many researches have shown that through the use of technology, internet and social media, students can develop higher order thinking skills (HOTS).

Modern teaching and learning theories assert that learning will be more meaningful and relevant to students if it is designed from the perspective of the students who will be able to construct and synthesize information. If teachers will use Social Media, student-centered learning will be utilized.

Also, there is student engagement and social interaction among the learning through Social Networking Sites. Students’ social interaction with their teachers, classmates and even parents is a very significant factor for the overall student experience.
Meyer (2015) emphasized in her article entitled “Six Alternative Social Media Tools for Teaching and Learning” that Social Media has changed the way people communicate and share information in their personal and professional lives. It has been evident that most learners, especially those who are in high school, have social media accounts in Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Even though some teachers resist in using it as a contemporary tool for learning, it is a safe bet that it will be an effective way of disseminating information and knowledge to students.

Reference: