X Marks the Spot!
Using Custom Mapping Software to Enhance Student Engagement by Connecting Distance Students to Campus and Each Other

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OLC Pin Map Activity

Copy this link into your browser:


Open another tab and identify your favorite restaurant, find its website and physical address, and a photo that is less than 2 MB (a screenshot is fine).
Connecting Distance Students

Distance learning can be isolating for students of any age. In this session we will demonstrate how instructors can encourage students to interact with each other and fully engage with content in online courses.

We will also explore ways in which institutions can better connect students to campus and the surrounding community using customizable tools that encourage student engagement.
We Are Here - Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Where in the World Are You?

Where are you? And where are your classmates? This is a first step to getting to know others in your cohort.

The more connected students are to their academic communities—to their fellow students, professors, university staff, and the academic institution as a whole—the more likely they are to do well in their courses and to complete their university degrees.
Bama Ready Orientation Example

The University of Alabama encourages all distance students to complete the Bama Ready Orientation online course.

The first assignment in Module 1 is a “Meet Your Community” mapping assignment.

Students immediately see a visual representation of the Bama By Distance community and begin to feel connected to that community.
Bama Ready Orientation – Map
Bama Ready Orientation – Popup

Nate F.
STATE
TX

ABOUT ME
I'm a Certified Coder majoring in Bus. Admin. Healthcare Admin. is the goal. I am excited to be apart of where legends are made.
Beyond Introductions

I wanted to use this introduction mapping exercise in other ways and make it content specific in the courses I teach.

The customizable mapping tool emerged as a result of a collaborative project initially proposed two years ago.

It is now available to all instructional designers (and willing instructors) to insert into any online or on-campus course.

The next two slides illustrate examples we used for map design ideas in developing this project.
First Friday Tuscaloosa - Example
Monster Takeover Tuscaloosa – Example
Our Customizable Public Art Map
OLC Pin Map Activity – Populated Map

Please use the following link to view the populated “Favorite Restaurant” map:

Further Engaging Distance Students

Project Goals:

- Connect the mapping assignment directly to course content (examples from readings and other media)
- Engage students in discussions with each other about their experiential learning activities and their pins on the map
- Maintain visual consistency with mapping assignments and video content
Festivals Map – Popup w/photo & link

MISSISSIPPI CHAMPIONSHIP HOT AIR BALLOON RACE AND FESTIVAL

YOUR NAME

ADDRESS
Northpark Drive

CITY
Canton

STATE
Ms

FESTIVAL WEBSITE
# Festivals Map – grade book example

## Learning Object Interactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Object Name</th>
<th>Total Time</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Scaled Score</th>
<th>Learner Response</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Festival #3 - Mapping Assignment</td>
<td>10 minutes, 30.33 seconds, complete 0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festivals Map - 2019 Copy</td>
<td>10 minutes, 30.33 seconds, complete 0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recorded user is rebosarge**

- **Your Name:** Ron
- **Festival Name:** Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival
- **Address:** Northpark Drive
- **City:** Canton
- **State:** MS
- **Country:** US
- **Festival Website:** [https://www.cantontourism.com/events-2/2017/2/22/mississippi-championship-hot-air-balloon-race](https://www.cantontourism.com/events-2/2017/2/22/mississippi-championship-hot-air-balloon-race)
- **Festival Photo:** [storage/images/9TrvDMGeVpCBdNBSOtQ8m4pEZDiZGBP10cXvgqE4.jpeg](storage/images/9TrvDMGeVpCBdNBSOtQ8m4pEZDiZGBP10cXvgqE4.jpeg)

## Grade

**Grade:** 2.00 out of 2
Festivals Map – Discussion Instructions

Participate in this discussion forum by:

1. reviewing the Festival #3 - Map and clicking on another student's pin on the map (not the one you created). Ideally, I would like you to choose a festival that is in a different state than where you currently live.

2. visiting the festival website linked to the marker on the map and read about the festival.

3. writing 2-3 sentences about the festival you clicked on and indicate why it interested you. You may wish to compare this festival to one in your area or one you attended. You may also discuss whether or not you would ever try to travel to this state and attend this kind of festival.

4. Responding to another student’s post in this discussion (1-2 sentences).
Festivals Map – Cumulative Example
RE: Discussion Board Post #4 - Festival #3

I would love to go to the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Race and Festival in Canton, MS. I have always wanted to go to see Hot Air Balloons. They have a festival similar to this in Decatur, AL. I haven't been able to attend it either. The one in Canton sounds amazing with all the hot air balloons, live music, fireworks, and steak and BBQ competition. To me, this sounds like the perfect way to spend the 4th of July. I will have to check it out soon. The Balloon Glow event at sundown sounds beautiful. Maybe next year I will be able to attend. I don't believe it will be too far of a drive for me. My biggest concern would be not to eat too much! Sounds like a great time.

I enjoyed seeing and hearing about other people's festivals. I like the map and discussion assignments. I imagine it is really interesting in the non-summer months when there are more classmates. The discussion boards are the closest thing online students get to having classroom discussions. I really enjoy them.
Customized Video Content with Map
Restaurant Map - Example with Comments

RESTAURANT NAME
Cochon

CITY
New Orleans

STATE
LA

COMMENTS
The food is delicious and an original twist on cajun food in New Orleans. Service is on point and very professional. The bartenders are mixologists.
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Thank you and ROLL TIDE!
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

• Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
• Navigate to specific session to evaluate
• Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
• Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded
Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website

OLC Online Learning Consortium

OLC Accelerate
Accelerating Online Learning Worldwide