Faculty Handout: NoodleTools

NoodleTool is a web-based platform for organizing student research. It can be accessed any time from any computer. Not only does it format citations easily, it also teaches students to evaluate and analyze each source while creating the citation. NoodleTools also seamlessly integrates with Google Docs to give students a robust online composing space and permits instructors to do paperless evaluation and provide feedback directly on students' work.

Teaching tool

- Teaches evaluation and analysis; not simply a "machine" that automates the process.
- Extensive help for each citation element at the point of need.
- Guides learner through difficult decisions about the source material.
- Generates a parenthetical reference for each citation, with additional advanced help.
- Checks for mistakes in punctuation, abbreviations, and more.

Promotes ethical research

- Ease of use and expert advice gives students confidence to cite even the trickiest of sources.
- Online notecards capture author's words, images, graphs, and original formatting.
- Software guides student through paraphrasing and prompts for original thinking.
- Built-in editor enables annotation of notes, improving comprehension, analysis and reflection.
- Notecards linked to citations to ensure proper attribution.

Assessment for learning

- Students may share working bibliographies and notecards with instructors for feedback.
- While viewing a student's citation form, instructors can insert comments and ask questions.
- Statistical graphs analyze quantity, variety and currency of sources.

Convenient and up-to-date

- Web-based, saved work can be accessed from any computer, no software to install.
- Bibliographies and notecards can be exported in .RTF format or directly into Word.
- Prompt software changes to conform to current MLA, APA and Chicago/Turabian rules.

Mission College Library has a subscription to NoodleTools. There are several links to NoodleTools on the Mission College Library Website. NoodleTools is available from the Library Online Services and Faculty Services pages and the Citing Sources page, which is accessible from on Library Research Portal. It is very important to use a Mission College link to register and access NoodleTools as it is the only way to access the Mission College subscription.
In order to use the Mission College subscription, you must first create an account with NoodleTools. You create an account by clicking on the Register button on the Registration/Sign In page. Be sure to select “I am a teacher” as this is required if you plan to have your students share information with you (see Sharing below). It is also recommended that faculty set up an additional account as a student so they you can practice sharing and experience the process from the students’ perspective.

NoodleTools Components

Students organize their work into projects. A new project is created by clicking on the “+ New Project” button. Once a project is created, it will appear in their My Projects list on their NoodleTools home page. For each project, students can create a source list, notecards, an outline, and a Google Docs paper.

The Dashboard is the homepage for each project:

![Dashboard Screenshot]
In addition to citations, students can create notecards and an outline. Notecards can be incorporated into the outline and also linked to a citation. Below is an example of a printout of a notecard created in NoodleTools:

**Rigoberta Menchu’s Story**

**Source:**


**URL:**

http://www.worldtrek.org/odyssey/latinamerica/rigoberta/rigoberta_story.html

**Quote:**

"So we’d work in the fincas for eight months and in January we’d go back up to the Altiplano to sow our crops. Where we live in the mountains, that is, where the land isn’t fertile, you can barely grow maize and beans. The land isn’t fertile enough for anything else. But on the coast the land is rich and you can grow anything. After we’d sown our crops, we’d go down to the coast again until it was time to harvest them, and then we’d make the journey back again. But the maize would soon run out, and we’d be back down again to earn some money. From what my parents said, they lived this harsh life for many years and they were always poor."

**Paraphrase:**

While this was the place she considered home and where they had a humble place to live and land to farm, she spent a little over half of each year with her family working on coffee and cotton fincas, or plantations, nearer the coast. This was necessary because they were not able to cultivate enough food for themselves or to sell to cover expenses.

**My Ideas:**

Perhaps look on a map to see how far they had to travel back and forth from the coast to the mountains where they lived. Good for a graphic for the paper.

**History:**

Notecard Created: 10/26/12 12:17 PM

**Sharing**

Faculty have the option of having students share their project to an in-box. If a student shares a project, an instructor can view the source list, notecards, outline, and Google Docs paper. The instructor can then give feedback next to the individual citations and notecards, or provide comments and corrections in the Google Docs paper.

Faculty wishing to use the “sharing” feature of NoodleTools must register as a teacher and then set up a **project inbox** for each project assigned.

To share a project with their instructor, students click the “Share project with a teacher’s drop box” link on their project Dashboard, then type the project name set up by the instructor. It is recommended that faculty set up an additional account as a student so they can practice sharing and experience the process from the students’ perspective.

**Getting Your Students Started**

The Library has a two page handout, *Creating Bibliographic Citations with NoodleTools*, available for students that explains the service and instructs them on how to get started using it. You can also provide your students with links to a specific tutorial (from NoodleTools the Support Center: http://www.noodletools.com/helpdesk/) that demonstrates the features you want them to use, such as sharing or notecards.