**Target Area:** College Age Students

**Overview:** This lesson will educate external (distance) students in the post secondary environment about the use of online social networking tools to deepen and broaden their learning through interaction with other students. Brightkite will be used as an example, allowing students to make contact with other students in their own geographical region.

**Objective:** Students will be able to identify the educational benefits of social interaction with other students. Students will be able to identify a social networking tool on-line and discuss its use in an educational context. Students will be able to identify other students in their own geographical region and attempt to make contact with them.

**Material:** LMS (learning management system), including online content detailed in the procedure (below). Each student will also require Internet access, an email account, computer and mobile phone to access the content on the LMS, other Internet resources and Bright Kite.

**Procedure:**

1. Students will read the first on-line article, outlining the basic principles of social constructivism in education and the need for interaction with others to increase the effectiveness of learning, through discussion of the subject material of the course.

2. Activity 1: Students to complete on-line quiz, reinforcing learning of above material.


   Shannon Ritter discusses their initial reaction to social networking and then relates how it has become a powerful tool, enabling collaboration across their campuses.

4. Activity 2: Students to write a short reflective piece discussing the need for interaction with fellow students, what they have learned from the above material and how they perceive it relates to themselves.

5. Introduction to BrightKite. This will be an online video developed using Captivate®. It will include:
   a. Creating an account
   b. Logging in
   c. Checking-in (your current location)
   d. Posting a note or picture
e. Searching for a contact
6. Activity 3: Students to create an account, log-in and begin posting.
7. Students to read the second on-line article, encouraging them to establish a network with other students to enhance their distance learning experience and reviewing the principles of social constructivism and the need to interact with others.