

The Networked Classroom

00:04

Charles Morgan: “You can imagine, writing the writing lab, we had two rooms, big rooms, with twenty-four machines in each one, and each machine attached to a dot matrix printer. At the end of class, everybody would print and it sounded like bees in there, it was just this terrible noise. Anyways, not the best writing environment but it was interesting.”

00:28

Mike Palmquist: “So the cool thing about chat was for a writing teacher that it challenged the notion of what it means to write. So you get this whole thing, you can sit down in a class and they can be chatting away and then they tell you I can’t write and you say oh, yes actually you’ve been writing for the last 20 minutes. We have all been writing, we are all writers.”

00:46

Charles Morgan: “We had a program called ‘Interchange’ that had been developed by folks at the University of Texas that turned the classroom into its own little social network that was tremendously useful and wonderful. Once we got connected to the web, let me backup a little bit. The classroom network so long as it was a classroom network and not connected to the outside world was a safe place where people could exchange confidences and the students in the room in their evaluations would often say we don’t talk a lot but I feel that I know everybody in this room intimately and so on and so forth because they’ve read each other’s stuff and they felt really safe about putting their stuff in front of the class. But so, when we connected to the outside world, it was a different story entirely. That, if they were going to do a web page of some kind that had their stuff on it. Um, this was going to be open to anybody! And so the character of communication through the network changed a lot. And interpersonal stuff began happening face to face whereas what went online was much more suited to a kind of public presentation, which given my bias, that the best writing starts with the personal, was not a game.”