

LESSON 9

Digital content vs traditional content

40 minutes

Evaluating Online Content

Outcome 2.1

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Learn what sets digital content apart from traditional media like newspapers and CDs. Compare examples side by side to spot features such as interactivity and reach. Then apply these insights to content you use every day.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
2.1	Identify the characteristics of digital media content which make it different from traditional (non-digital) content.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Identify the characteristics that make digital media content different from traditional content (LO 2.1)
- Pull out what digital adds and changes: interactivity, sharing, updating, data and reach
- List three things a digital form of content you use can do that a non-digital version could not

BEFORE THE BELL

- Prepare the five frame words and the three matched pairs for board display (model Pair B, then Pair A; hold Pair C for the follow-on step).
- Have the answer shape ready: Digital adds ___ (idea). That changes ___.
- The five-cell pooling grid is on screen in the Next pair step, so there is nothing to draw for it.
- Board space for five frame words, modelled Pair B, then Pair A only; hold Pair C for the next step
- Reveal Pair C only after Pair A is underway; the five-column pooling grid is on screen

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

4 min	introduction	Start
4 min	content	Examine and discuss
10 min	activity	Hands-on: matched pairs teardown
8 min	activity	Next pair
8 min	activity	Your turn
3 min	content	Make sense
2 min	content	Reflect
1 min	summary	What you covered

TEACHING MOVES

- Write the five words on the board as a reusable frame for the class.
- Model Pair B in about two minutes, then reveal only Pair A; release Pair C in the next step.
- Circulate during pair work and push vague answers toward a named idea.
- Pool on the on-screen grid: one short phrase each for the five ideas so the close is protected.
- If Pair C overruns, skip the optional privacy extension and take only three pooled examples (sharing, updating, data) before Make sense.
- For Your turn, spot-check volunteers only, or ask for the non-digital twin and one idea name without the app title.
- Harvest two or three student examples during the make sense section.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Students list features without explaining adds or changes; point them back to the answer shape.
- Students pick content without a clear non-digital twin; help them create a fair comparison.
- Overlook data or reach; remind them of the five ideas on the board.
- Treating digital as automatically better; keep the gain-and-cost framing.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: Provide the answer shape on a strip or board: 'Digital adds ___ (idea). That changes ___.'
- Extension: Ask students which pair shows the biggest change in privacy as well as reach.
- Support: Allow a sentence starter for the personal example if needed.