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ISD 581

Skype Vs. Cattaraugus Allegany Distance Learning

 This week’s lesson dealt with video conferencing. We were asked to compare two different types, so I picked Skype and the Cattaraugus Allegany Distance Learning Site, which I will just call Distance Learning.

 Both sites offer specific advantages to the users. Skype allows users from anywhere in the world to communicate with just voice or both voice and video. This is especially helpful for college students who need to collaborate on a project, as I have used Skype exclusively for this purpose. Distance Learning is something that can be used in the school system as a tool to reach other communities or individuals as a learning tool. In their arenas, both are very useful.

 Both sites also offer disadvantages. Skype has a tendancy to not always work as well as it should. Also, random people are privy to private information. Users may get a call from someone they have never met or heard from. As a professional video conferencing tool, it lacks in this regard. Distance Learning, while useful, can only be used to contact specific people, as it is run by the school system; the school system is very careful about outside content leaking in to the students. Also, this software may not always be very reliable at all times.

 All in all, both sites have something positive to offer to the user depending on the use. As long as the pros and cons are kept in mind, the user should be able to get the most out of each piece of software offered.