

Activity: A case study in online community

Created by [Kyle Oliver](#) for [Digital Media for Ministry](#)
Shared under a [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#) license at [digitalliteracytoolkit.org](#)

The Slate Project (<http://www.slateproject.org/>) is an innovative church plant in Baltimore, committed to active engagement in physical *and* digital neighborhoods. Much of their public-facing corporate life takes place on Twitter. Co-founders include digital storyteller Jason Chesnut and Episcopal Church social media task force chair Sarah Shisler Goff.

Your challenge for today is to learn as much as you can about The Slate Project and their approach to being church, with particular emphasis on online community. The following handles and hashtags may be useful:

@theslateproject
#slatespeak
#slatereads
@crazypastor
@revshiz
@revjenn

[Note to instructor: Your students may need some training in navigating social networking spaces (particularly Twitter, which can be quite intimidating at first). I find that interactive demos are best, and then mentioning to students that YouTube is a valuable resource for screencast-based how-tos.]

You do not have to limit your study of The Slate Project to Twitter, but make sure you explore some of their content and conversation there.

Feel free to work alone or in teams as you like. Make some notes for yourself about what you noticed, what you were excited or troubled by, and how this community approaches being church in the twenty-first century. At the 25-minute mark, we'll have a class discussion about what you learned.