Benefits of a Liquid Syllabus Transcript

I know what you're thinking. "I have a syllabus. I worked really hard on it. So, why should I take the time to also create a liquid syllabus? And what does that mean anyway? After all, I already have my syllabus online in the form of a PDF. And I know all my students can access it in Canvas." But, folks, the thing is when your syllabus is behind a login screen, it may be tough for students to get to it from their phone. And no matter how lovely it looks on a computer, reading it on a mobile device is tough. The information in that syllabus is important, right? The bottom line is when we use tools designed for print products they don't result in mobile-friendly experiences and that's not good for our students. How might things change if you used a website tool, like Google Sites or WordPress, to create a liquid version of your syllabus? For just a moment, imagine being a student. It's the start of your first semester in college and the week before class starts you check your email and you get a friendly welcome message from your sociology instructor. It includes a button at the bottom to check the syllabus. You tap that button with your finger and instantly you go to a syllabus that's easy to read and experience with the swipe of your finger. And you also discover something pretty special at the top. [background music] [instructor voiceover] Hi, Scholars! My name is Katie Whitman Conklin and I'm going to be your instructor this semester. A little bit about me--I lived in the Central Valley of California for a lot of years with my husband and children while he was stationed there with the Navy, and when he retired we moved to northern Idaho where we now live with our kids on our family ranch. You think to yourself, "Hey, I'm gonna love this class! I can't wait to get started!" But you know what? That's not the only benefit of a liquid syllabus. Since it lives on the web it's shareable with a simple link. That means you can place that link in as many other places as you'd like. How about adding it next to your course description in your college's class schedule? Or on your profile page on your college website? Or a link on your own professional website? And you know what can really help promote your course and encourage more students to enroll? That's right! Share it on Twitter. When we design with web tools, we create mobile-friendly content that supports our students in so many ways. It also lets them know we care.

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