Content Curation in the Classroom

 I selected pinterest and slideshare as two sites to experiment with content curation in the field of mathematics. The units I chose to investigate in mathematics were renaming fractions and finding zeros of a quadratic. I picked these topics since the curation tools seemed to have a lot to offer on those units.

I chose to search the topic of fractions on slideshare. Slideshare seemed to have a lot to offer when it came to teaching renaming fractions in various forms. I explored the topic of converting mixed numbers, improper fractions, and decimals. While I did find a few good sources, I did have to filter through many. I chose fractions since that is a topic that students struggle with in any grade, including high school students. The material chosen on this clipboard however is more suitable for the 4th and 5th graders. My favorite feature about slideshare is most of the topics, if not all, were centered on education, and I could quickly flip through vibrant slideshows that could be useful in the classroom. Since I was searching fractions slides, I had to be very careful with accuracy. Since fractions are something everyone has some knowledge of, people come up with their trick ways to make the math work, although their methods are not valid. I also needed to direct my search so that I obtained relevant information with a purpose. I was not too concerned with currentness of my sources since math is not an ever-changing subject such as history or literature.

The other curation tool I chose was pinterest, because it is a source I often use for mathematics content, and it has many reliable sources. Pinterest had a great selection on finding zeros. However, I did have to weed through the links that led me to paid sites; there purpose was to sell, not teach. I also needed to check the accuracy of the sites along with the authority of who created the site. Finally I had to ask if this material would be relevant to the unit on finding zeros of quadratics. My favorite feature that pinterest offered was after you search a topic it gives you a list of popular options to narrow your search. For example, if I typed “quadratic” in the search bar, it would come up with additional add-on phrases after the search such as “formula”, “proof”, and “graph”.

I could definitely use pinterest and slideshare in a classroom by having students refer to the site if they are having trouble with their homework and need a review, or I could use it as part of my presentation so that I wouldn’t have to create my own resources.