Yancey 21st Century

In “Writing in the 21st Century” (2009) Kathleen BlakeYancey brings to our attention that “historically, like today, we compose on all available materials” (p. 8). Therefore, as technology continues to change the ways in which we communicate and compose by providing many mediums and opportunities to do so, then our understandings of literacy and how to teach it need to reflect the available materials the public uses to communicate. Yancey observes that “with digital technology and, especially web 2.0, it seems writers are everywhere,” which is significant because a large majority of student writing occurs outside of an institution (p.4). This writing “belongs to the writer” and is social due to the fact that it occurs “on the page and on the screen and on the network” (p. 4). Web 2.0 provides many opportunities to write, and this writing is shared. The shared, or social nature of this type of composing provides an audience that is everywhere, much like the opportunities to compose. Yancey describes these compositions as “newly technologized, socialized, and networked,” which results in a demand to “respond to these new composings and new sites of composings with new energy and a new composing agenda” (p.8). Yancey’s work points to the ways technology changes where we write and communicate, and that we need to respond to it so that curriculum can support this type of composition and communication.