Building Vocabulary Using an Oncourse Forum

1. Set up a forum on Oncourse, and within the forum, post a topic. You might use this level to organize multiple vocabulary sets.

2. Assign vocabulary words or have individual students choose a word or words from the set to investigate.

3. Encourage your students to:
   a. Look at different online dictionaries;
   b. Find more than one definition or usage;
   c. Put the word in context, either in their own experience, or in the topics/literature studied;
   d. Find images or videos which show the concept;
   e. Cite their sources;
   f. Double-check their spelling and grammar;
   g. Be creative!

4. Have your students compile their findings in a new thread under the appropriate topic, and present their thread in class.

5. Goals for students' learning include:
   a. Autonomy in vocabulary-building;
   b. Responsibility for knowledge-creation;
   c. Contact with online sources, some authentic;
   d. Familiarity, so that they become an “expert.”

6. Advantages:
   a. Little set-up;
   b. Students can later use the Forum to study;
   c. In-class presentations spark interest.