Problem of Practice by Chris Davies

I teach nine students in a district behavioral and mental health class. Each student is screened into my program from their home school due to behavioral issues. Students in my middle school class never learned or struggle with social skills. These students have very few opportunities to be engaged with technology. My problem would be how do I better engage students in social skill lessons with the use of technology? They are in grades six to eight but do not have the same social skills of students at that age. They have not developed the same way and for numerous reasons are missing basic social skills. Most students have the internet at home. This is a great way to connect what students are learning in the classroom to their homes. The only problem is that I do not assign homework in my class because it can create problems in households that are already full of confrontations. There is one small assignment that should not take students very long to do. This assignment will also help connect parents to what is going on in the classroom. I believe all these assignments will be effective because they are engaging. They use the internet and other media sources that students in my class are very familiar with. Students can partake in lessons and re-affirm what they learned at school. They can also learn and practice new skills at home.

1. Students will go home and write on the TOWER blog what social skill they are working on.

<http://chdavies.posterous.com/tag/tower>

1. At school students will brainstorm all of the words they can come up with that relate to positive aspects of the social skill they are working on. The will then tell their teacher and he will enter it into a wordle. There will then be a class discussion on what words are most prominent.

<http://www.wordle.net/>

1. Using these words as inspiration, students will make a glogster poster about their social skill. The

<http://www.glogster.com>