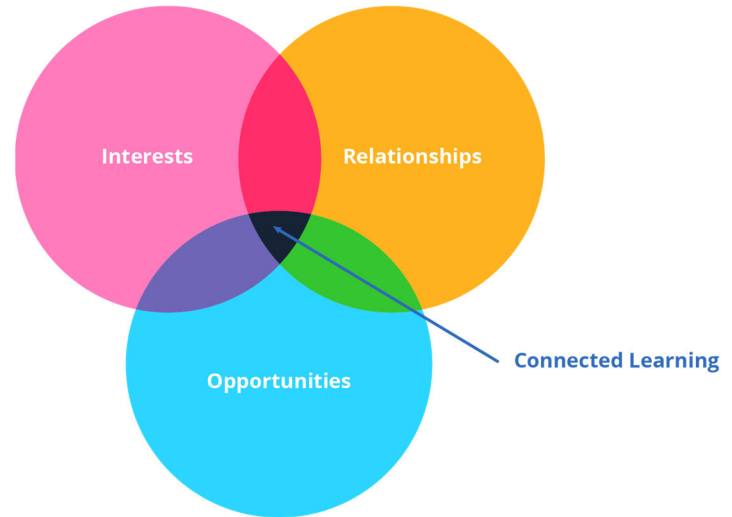


Connected Learning Handout 2: What is Connected Learning?

Connected learning combines personal interests, supportive relationships, and opportunities. It is learning in an age of abundant access to information and social connection that embraces the diverse backgrounds and interests of all young people².

Connected learning knits together three elements³:

- **Interests:** Learning is motivating when it grows out of personal interest.
- **Relationships:** Learners need support from peers and mentors to persist through setbacks and challenges.
- **Opportunities:** Success beyond the classroom requires tangible connections to real-world career and civic opportunities.



Core properties of connected learning experiences include:

- **Production-Centered:** Digital tools provide opportunities for producing and creating a wide variety of media, knowledge, and cultural content in experimental and active ways.
- **Shared Purpose:** Social media and web-based communities provide unprecedented opportunities for cross-generational and cross-cultural learning and connection to unfold and thrive around common goals and interests.
- **Openly Networked:** Online platforms and digital tools can make learning resources abundant, accessible, and visible across all learner settings.

² <https://clalliance.org/about-connected-learning/>

³ Ito, Mizuko, Kris Gutiérrez, Sonia Livingstone, Bill Penuel, Jean Rhodes, Katie Salen, Juliet Schor, Julian Sefton-Green, S. Craig Watkins. 2013. *Connected Learning: An Agenda for Research and Design*. Irvine, CA: Digital Media and Learning Research Hub.