Are you an “instateacher”? Academic literacy through social network sites

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In the last ten years, English language learners have made increasing use of social network sites (SNS). This rise of digital media encourages English language teachers to integrate SNS into educational processes. The study explores the use of Instagram and ways in which it could be integrated into the classroom to improve the literacy skills of students taking the Academic Reading and Writing course. Surveys of teachers and students and semi-structured interviews were analysed to gain insight into student perceptions of social media use in developing literacy skills, as well how social media could be used in the classroom. The findings of this study indicate that the majority of students showed a positive attitude towards the use of Instagram in the reading and writing classroom.

Keywords: academic literacy, Instagram in teaching, EFL classroom, academic writing, social network sites