Vince and Meghan are part of a new program called Eco-Praxis. It's a summer program at Stanford where they are learning about design. They are working on a project to design solutions that would improve upon the situation of waste management in their community.
Vince applied to this program because he wanted to have something to keep him busy over the summer, and he thinks he wants to be a designer. Vince likes to make stuff. And he wants to make a difference in the world. This program is about both.
Meghan applied for some of the same reasons... but mostly because her mom said she had to do something and at least this was nearby. She also wanted to introduce herself to concepts behind engineering so that she knows better for when she applies to college next year. And she cares about the environment.
In order to improve upon the situation of waste management in their community, they need to first understand the way people currently deal with waste. They interview and observe people, take a field trip to a recycling center, calculate their individual ecological footprints, and various other activities.
All of the information they gather gets shared in the room where the whole group gets together, but also needs to be accessible later.
During their break, Vince uploads his photos and looks through some of the other groups’ research so he has an even broader understanding.
He has some new ideas about recycling based on someone else's interview, and so he posts them to his design blog.

Yo. What's with all the plastic? There's got to be a way to make plastic or a plastic-like thing in a better way?
Meghan checks her email before class the next morning and sees that Vince has posted to his blog.
Yo. What's with all the plastic? There's got to be a way to make plastic or a plastic-like thing in a better way?

Comment: Meghan

Vin-I saw something about corn-based plastic. Remind me later.

She adds a comment so she doesn't forget to talk to him about it later.
She skims the headlines on the RSS feed to see if there are any new ideas, but instead of reading the one she’s interested in now, she adds it to her research list to read later.
After our field trip I realized that recycling isn’t really solving the problem. What can we do to produce less, or produce SMARTER?

She takes a look at her blog and sees that the program teachers have given props to some of her thoughts... she is glad she's on the right track, and heads out to class.