

Educators' Free Technology Toolbox

So many tools, so little time! Where's a teacher to begin? Among the abundant digital tools available on the web today, there have emerged clear favorites that have become popular with educators for their utility in meeting a variety of learning objectives. Explore the tools below as starting points:

COLLABORATING

Blogs: Blogs are essentially online interactive journals for posting content (text and media) and receiving feedback from others. Many teachers use classroom blogs to as full-fledged classroom web sites. Blogs are commonly used as teaching tools to communicate with students on a regular basis, and extend classroom discussions through the use of prompts. Individual student blogs can also function as online portfolios of student learning. The possibilities are endless!

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Edublogs	http://edublogs.org/	Free basic educator/classroom accounts
	Kidblog	http://kidblog.org/	Free basic educator/classroom accounts
	Class Press	http://www.classpress.com/	Free basic educator/classroom accounts
	21 Classes	http://www.21classes.com/	Free basic educator/classroom accounts

Wikis: Wikis are collaborative websites that enable multiple users to edit, add comments, and upload text, images, videos, and other digital media (Wikipedia is the largest example). Wikis are great for class websites, group projects, or any situation where you want students to be able to work together to build an online multimedia learning space.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	PBworks	http://www.pbworks.com	Free basic educator/classroom accounts
	Wikispaces	http://www.wikispaces.com	Free basic educator/classroom accounts

Websites: The applications below can be used to create full featured websites. Both apps below feature drag and drop interfaces, collaborative editing, and the ability to upload and embed a variety of media.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Google Sites	http://sites.myranney.org	Have school-wide account
	Weebly	http://education.weebly.com/	Free basic educator/classroom accounts

Web-based application suites: All Ranney students have Google Docs accounts, including Gmail, Sites, Video, and more. Use Google Docs to collaboratively edit basic word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation documents with others.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Google Docs	http://docs.myranney.org	Have school-wide account

Social networks for education: Social networks are online communities for creating, sharing, and managing content, with the added functionality of social networking tools like blogs, chat, and forums. Some programs even offer course management features such as assignments, quizzes, file storage, and grading!

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Edmodo	http://www.edmodo.com/	Free basic educator accounts
	Schoology	http://www.schoology.com/	Free basic educator accounts

ORGANIZING/SHARING

Social bookmarking: Social bookmarking tools allow users access and sync bookmarks across computers. The tools below enable users to archive, organize, annotate, highlight, and share websites, website clips, and other media. Social bookmarking is a valuable tool for group research and content creation!

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Diigo	http://www.diigo.com/education	Free basic educator/classroom accounts
	Delicious	http://www.delicious.com/	Free individual accounts

Media hosting (for teachers): These apps enable users to upload, organize, and share photos, videos, and slide presentations. Media hosted on these sites can be embedded into blogs, wikis, and websites.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	SchoolTube	http://www.schooltube.com	Have school-wide teacher account
	Flickr	http://www.flickr.com/	Individual educator
	TeacherTube	http://teachertube.com/	Individual educator
	Slideshare	http://www.slideshare.net/	Individual educator

PARTICIPATING

Online surveys: Online survey tools can be embedded into blogs, wikis, websites, and social networks to collect data and assess student learning.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	SurveyMonkey	http://www.surveymonkey.com/	Have school-wide teacher account
	Kwik Surveys	http://www.kwiksurveys.com/	Free individual account

Collaborative “whiteboards:” These tools can be used for quick discussions, feedback, and assessment.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Wallwisher	http://www.wallwisher.com/	Free individual account
	AnswerGarden	http://answergarden.ch/	Free individual account
	Stixy	http://www.stixy.com/	Free individual account

CREATING

Screencasting: Create teacher or student tutorials using free tools that record your actions on screen. Students can create videos to demonstrate their knowledge or teach others!

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Screenr	http://www.screenr.com/	Free individual account
	Jing (download)	http://www.techsmith.com/jing/	Free individual account

Multimedia production: Encourage creativity, collaboration, and digital media skills with these free web-based multimedia tools.

Level	Tool	URL	Accounts
	Glogster (multimedia posters)	http://www.glogster.com/	Free basic educator account
	Animoto (3-step videos)	http://animoto.com/	Free basic educator account
	Voicethread (collaborative multimedia slideshows)	http://voicethread.com/	Free basic educator account
	Prezi	http://prezi.com/	Free basic educator account

For additional resources, visit:

“Digital Tools” on Ranney LibGuides: <http://ranneyschool.libguides.com/digitaltools>