

# Bringing Technology into English Classrooms

Link to this document as web page: [http://docs.google.com/View?id=dc2rn7h8\\_79dpr5nchk](http://docs.google.com/View?id=dc2rn7h8_79dpr5nchk)

## Using Blogs in the ELA Classroom

### What are blogs and how can we use them in education?

- [7 Things About Blogs](#) from Educause Learning Initiative
- View [Blogs in Plain English](#) video from Common Craft
- [Paper Cuts Blog](#)--New York Times Book Review
- Visit the [Edublogs blog Texas Schoolmarm](#) to read and comment

### Reading and Subscribing to Blogs

- Will Richardson in his book *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms* points out that teachers need to become readers of blogs before using them with their students. *The first step is to take some time to just read some good Weblogs. A good place to find some that might interest you is the "Find New Blogs" list at Bloglines ([www.bloglines.com/topblogs](http://www.bloglines.com/topblogs))*
- Google has a [Blog Search](#)

### Recommended Blogs Written by Educators:

- [NCTE Inbox Blog](#)
- [NCTE Secondary Section Blog](#)
- Donalyn Miller's [The Book Whisperer](#)
- Troy Hicks' [Digital Writing, Digital Teaching](#)
- Jenny Levine [The Shifted Librarian](#)
- Will Richardson's [Weblogg-ed](#)
- Anne Davis [Edublog Insights](#)
- 

### RSS Aggregators

- View [RSS in Plain English](#) from Common Craft
- Two aggregators which allow you to subscribe to blogs:
  - Google Reader  
Google Reader constantly checks your favorite news sites and blogs for new content. Whether a site updates daily or monthly, you can be sure that you won't miss a thing.
  - [Bloglines](#)  
With Bloglines, you can subscribe to the RSS feeds of your favorite blogs, and Bloglines will monitor updates to those sites. You can read the latest entries easily within Bloglines.

### Keeping Students Safe

- Teachers are obligated to teach students responsibility, appropriateness, and common sense as students publish to the Web.
  - Schools and libraries are required by the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) to filter content that is accessible via the Internet. In addition, CIPA requires that schools monitor the online activities of minors and to

have a policy in place that addresses the "safety and security" of minors when online. (CGB System Support Office, 2005)

- Parental Approval for students to publish online is important. Link to [Sample Blogging Letter](#) to send home with students.

## Creating Our Own Blogs

- [Edublogs](#) or [Blogger](#)? Advantages of a blog site set up for educators:
    - Ad free
    - Increased privacy options
    - Greater teacher control
    - Easier to have unblocked at the district level
  - Create a blog account at [Edublogs.org](#)
    - Edublogs User Manual (in our workshop folder on your desktop) and [Getting Started With Edublogs Help & Support](#)
    - Share your blog with us! Go to [our workshop blog](#) and post your blog's name and URL so that we can read and subscribe to it.
    - Create a couple of posts on your blog
    - [Creating User Accounts](#) for students with email addresses
    - Edublogs Instructions: [Creating blogs and accounts for your students](#)
- 

## What are wikis and how can we use them in education?

- View [Wikis in Plain English](#) video from Common Craft
- [7 Things About Wikis](#) from Educause Learning Initiative
- Examples of educational wikis:
  - [Classroom2.0 wiki](#) for educators
  - [Welker's Wikinomics](#), winner of the 2007 EduBlog Awards "Best Educational Wiki" award, for students and teachers of Economics
  - [List of educational wikis](#)
  - Vicki Davis, a teacher at [Westwood Schools](#) in Camilla Georgia
  - New York high school [class wiki on Macbeth](#)
  - [Honors British Literature class](#) wiki using discussion tabs for class discussions
- [Wikispaces wiki](#) on how to create a wiki, including a Powerpoint presentation and handouts for getting started
  - Wikispaces discusses educational use of wikis  
<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K>
  - Instructions on how to add references to your Wikispaces wiki  
<http://blog.wikispaces.com/2008/07/add-references-to-your-wiki.html>
- [PBWiki](#)'s information on educational use of wikis, including [K-12 examples of educators' wikis](#) , [engaging students in an online classroom](#) (webinar), and a [library of resources](#) to help teachers use PBWiki; [Adding footnotes to a PBwiki](#).
- [Wetpaint](#) wiki on using wikis in education
- [Weebly](#) allows users to create a free website and blog

## Creating our own wikis at Wikispaces.com

- Visit our [workshop wiki at Wikispaces](#)
- Create a wiki for yourself at Wikispaces

- Share your wiki name and URL with us on the [Wikis page at Wikispaces](#)
- 

## Online Research

Online tools have revolutionized the research process, making 3X5 notecards and manilla envelopes definitely "old school."

We need to admit to our students that googling (using search engines) has become a credible way to research information. Case in point: [On CNN Your Money Show](#), host Ali Velshi interviewed Richard Sloan, co-founder of [Start-up Nation](#), who advised business people to "Google like mad."

VELSHI: You have a few tips, Richard. It's your passion. Take stock, taking stock of your skills and commit to your concept. Test drive your concept, but you know what I like? Google like mad. Your fourth point. What do you mean by that? There's free research out there.

SLOAN: Well, look, you've got to have the passion and that's going to be all about playing to your passion and you have to take stock of what your real resources are. You have to make sure you have a tight concept and you want to test drive it with other people, but Google like mad means you have information available to you today to be strategic, to be smart, to make great decisions in strategies based on all that data that's available to you by being a good googler. Pull in that information, use it, incorporate it into your strategy and you'll have much better chances for success.

- Learning to Ask the Right Questions is the key to effective research. Jamie McKenzie's "[The Question IS the Answer](#)" at his *From Now On Website* contains a wealth of information on asking good questions.
- Searching the Internet is easier and more efficient these days with [Google's Advanced Search](#) and Meta Search Engines like [Dogpile](#) and [Clusty](#) that search across numerous search engines.
- Online Citation Machines: [Son of Citation Machine](#) and [KnightCite Citation Service](#) generate citations from data that users enter. These services allow students to spend their greatest effort writing their papers instead of laboring over citation formatting. Library databases like [EBSCO](#) now have a feature that creates citations for any article accessed.
- Colleges and libraries have online resources for helping students write research papers and cite sources correctly.
  - Infopeople.org has a [Best Search Tools](#) portal worth checking out.
  - [Berkeley Library](#) has [Techniques to Apply & Questions to Ask when Evaluating Web Pages](#), as well as [APA and MLA Style Guides](#) for downloading.
  - Purdue University has an excellent [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#).
- Online library databases like [EBSCO](#) make it possible to locate magazine, newspaper, and journal articles from any Internet accessible computer. Many also contain images and primary source documents. Check with your school librarian for the user names and passwords for the databases your school can access.

- Online bookmarking sites like [Del.icio.us](http://Del.icio.us) make it possible to bookmark websites from any computer and have them available anywhere by logging into your account. Students can collaborate with peers by sharing their bookmarks. Users create a free account for themselves.
- [Google Docs](http://Google Docs) allow students to record ideas and create drafts of their work and save them so that the documents can be accessed from any Internet accessible computer. Students can also share documents with others and collaborate on projects.
- Wikis are great places to post assignments and links for students. [PBWiki](http://PBWiki) and [Wikispaces](http://Wikispaces) both offer free wikis for teachers. Students can also build wiki pages for a research project. Check out the [Discoveryisms](http://Discoveryisms) wiki.
- Intel has created a [database of assessment tools](http://database of assessment tools) that teachers can access for free. Rubrics can be personalized and saved to the user's workspace or printed as they are.

Portable Applications for USB devices make it possible to carry your data with you where ever you go. Download [Mobile Firefox Web Browser](http://Mobile Firefox Web Browser) and install it on your USB so that you can install the [Delicious toolbar](http://Delicious toolbar), [Google Notebook extension](http://Google Notebook extension), and [Zotero](http://Zotero) (a Firefox extension that helps you keep track of your information and cite it.)

---

## Student Projects

### Digital Storytelling in Secondary ELA Classroom

- Extension of a memoir writing unit
- View samples and resources from [BBC Capture Wales site](http://BBC Capture Wales site)
- Talk about how it has to be about the story and then finding images that help tell the story.
- Discuss elements of a good story.
- Write a 200-250 word **story** and save it in a **project folder** on the desktop.
- Find 5 or 6 **images** that help tell the story; save them to project folder.
- Open PhotoStory 3 and import your pictures.
- Record story using the PhotoStory3 narration tool, clicking through the images and recording the chunk for each image.
- Find music at [FreePlayMusic.com](http://FreePlayMusic.com) . Save it to the project folder.
- Import audio file and images into Photo Story3 to create video.
- Create title and credits. You can do this in PhotoStory or in PowerPoint. Powerpoint slides can be saved as a jpeg (picture file) and then imported into Photo Story.
- Make sure that story length and pictures match. PhotoStory will cut off the sound file when the last picture has displayed. To change the length the pictures are on the screen, use the Customize Motion button on the Narrate Your Pictures window in Photo Story.

### Other Resources

- [Digitales Website](http://Digitales Website) (Bernajean Porter) Sample videos and teacher resources
- Center for Digital Storytelling <http://www.storycenter.org>
- Tokoni Website <http://www.tokoni.com/index.php> is a collection of digital stories.

- Stories for Change <http://storiesforchange.net/> is another collection of digital stories.
  - [YouTube video about ELL students](#) creating digital stories after interviewing someone.
- 

## Podcasting

### Educational Uses of podcasting:

- Find and use quality podcasts like the ones listed below in the lessons you already teach:
  - [Grammar Girl](#)
  - [NPR This I Believe](#)
  - [NPR In Character](#)
  - [NPR's American Experience](#) also has a [podcast](#).
  - [The Memory Palace](#) is a history podcast of short, surprising stories from the past.
- Listen to this podcast about the students who produce the [Portable Radio podcast](#): <http://www.carleton.ca/midweek/audio/clip20070214-2.ram>
- Radio WillowWeb Podcast: <http://www.mpsomaha.org/willow/Radio/>
- [SIRS Podcast Contest on Leading Issues](#) Check out the contest finalists' Enhanced podcasts at [http://www.proquestk12.com/access/custom/sirspodcon\\_finals/sirspodcon\\_finalists.shtml](http://www.proquestk12.com/access/custom/sirspodcon_finals/sirspodcon_finalists.shtml)
- Check on [Thinkfinity.org](#)'s website regularly for lessons that use podcasting
- Dan Schmidt's Kidcast podcast has great information about improving the quality of students' podcasts at <http://www.intelligenic.com/blog/>

### Understanding Podcasting

- 7 Things You Should Know About Podcasting from Educause <http://connect.educause.edu/Library/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAbout/39380>
- Podcasting in Plain English from CommonCraft <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-MSL42NV3c>
- Podcasting Tools <http://www.podcasting-tools.com> has simple explanations of what podcasting is and how to do it.
- Learning in Hand <http://learninginhand.com/podcasting/> is a site geared to education that explains what podcasts are, how to find and listen to them, and create them. Great resource!
- Learn Out Loud's Introduction to Podcasting: <http://www.learnoutloud.com/Content/Topic-Pages/Introduction-To-Podcasting/17>
- Teacher Tube video introducing podcasting [http://www.teachertube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=0b1e3c4571bd98c4d548](http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=0b1e3c4571bd98c4d548)
- Teacher Tube video on how podcasting enhances oral language in the classroom: [http://www.teachertube.com/view\\_video.php?viewkey=7d48c8d19762b88c32c3](http://www.teachertube.com/view_video.php?viewkey=7d48c8d19762b88c32c3)
- Will Richardson's book [Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Tools for the Web](#)

### Finding, Subscribing, and Listening to Podcasts

- Readers are tools that allow listeners to subscribe to podcasts they want to listen to on a regular basis.
  - **iTunes** will download the newest podcasts automatically and save them to your computer when the iTunes program is opened.
  - **Online readers** like [Blog Lines](#) <http://www.bloglines.com/> and [Google Reader](#) <http://www.google.com/reader> allow you to listen to

your favorite podcasts from any Internet accessible computer without downloading them onto the computer you are using.

- Search for podcasts with **iTunes**, **Podcast Alley** <http://www.podcastalley.com>, **EPN (Education Podcast Network)** <http://epnweb.org>, and **Learning in Hand** <http://learninginhand.com/podcasting/find.html>

### Podcasts for Educational Use

- T.E.D. Talks

<http://www.learnoutloud.com/Catalog/Social-Sciences/Current-Events/TEDTalks-Podcast/19083>

### Free Tools for Creating Podcasts

- **Audacity** is a free audio editor that can be downloaded from the following link: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

You will need to download [LAME MP3 encoder](#) to convert your file to an mp3 format. (Because of software patents, Audacity cannot put this encoder inside their program.)

- **Free Play Music** <http://www.freeplaymusic.com>

- **Gabcast** <http://www.gabcast.com>

Sign up for a free account and record audio files using your telephone. Each recording can be up to 60 minutes in length. You dial an 800 number, type in your channel number, channel password, and record your episode. The episode is saved as an mp3 file to your account where you can download it to your computer and open it in Audacity.

- **Edublogs** <http://www.edublogs.org> Posting podcast episodes to a blog creates RSS feed for them so that others can subscribe to them.

### How to Cite Podcasts:

Name of author, host or producer (if available). "Title of podcast." Date of podcast. Podcast. "Title of Podcast show." (if different than title of podcast). Title of larger site (if available). Date of download.

### Examples:

Mondello, Bob. "Charlton Heston, Old-School Gentleman, Dies at 84." 8 May 2008. Podcast. "NPR Movies". [National Public Radio](#). 10 April 2008. <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=89421208>>

Source: Library, Univeristy of California, Berkeley. Retrieved July 15, 2008 from <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/mla.html>