

Internet Resource Exploration

Blogs & Blogging Resources

1) How do I gain access to (URLs) and find tutorials and/or exploratory assistance with some presented tools of interest to me?

- Starting a blog can be tricky especially if you have not done it before but here is a [tutorial](#) that will help set up a blog on Edublog which is one of the most used blogs by educators.
- Blogger is a free blog also widely used by educators and a quick tutorial to set one up can be found [here](#).

2) What are some practical implications for how this tool or this tool set can be used in classrooms?

- [Teachers](#) can use blogs as a way to connect students, parents, administrators and other teachers what is going on in their classroom community and show off students work. Example: [Huzzah!](#)
- [Students](#) can also use blogs as a way to develop their writing skills, collaborate about topics with peers and express themselves through technologies available. Example: [Jazzing Up Eight Grade](#)
- [Administrators](#) can utilize blogs to communicate with staff, parents and the community about what is going on with the school and school district as a whole. Example: [Sweet Briar College's President's Blog](#)

3) How can I envision myself using this tool or this tool set in my classroom?

I can see myself using blogs in the classroom as a way to keep students, parents, and other teachers involved in my classroom. I like the link that I gave to *Huzzah!* because the teacher featured students work and commented on what she enjoyed about the post. She also posted about herself which allows parents and students to fill closer to her. Another thing she had in her blog was a list of students personal blogs that you could access. These are all things that I can see myself doing in my future classroom.

(More) Cloud Apps

1) How do I gain access to (URLs) and find tutorials and/or exploratory assistance with some

presented tools of interest to me?

- The URLs that were provided are below and no tutorials were shown on how to use these programs but they did say that they were easy to use.

2) What are some practical implications for how this tool or this tool set can be used in classrooms?

- [Google Drive](#) has put an end to missing homework excuses.
- [Edmodo](#) assist teachers in preparing lessons, posting discussions, accept assignments, and post grades this program is like a virtual classroom and allows students to be involved in and out of school.
- [File Sharing and collaboration](#) is another feature that Google Drive has to offer which allows students and teachers to edit, comment, and work on documents or papers together in and outside of school.
- [Online note taking](#) allows you to tag and organize notes which eliminates the misplacement of notes or students not be able to get notes from a friend when absent.

3) How can I envision myself using this tool or this tool set in my classroom?

In my future classroom I plan on having students create a Google account so that Drive can be accessed. Google Drive allows students to collaborate and share documents as well as save documents to a safe place. it will also allow students stay organized which is a key factor in students success in school. Lastly, since documents will be mobile students can access them on their phone, laptop, and or computer there should be little excuses as to why students were not able to complete assignments.

Educational Games & Gamification

1) How do I gain access to (URLs) and find tutorials and/or exploratory assistance with some presented tools of interest to me?

- [Games for change](#) is a website designed to allow you to create and play games that have been designed and tested by educators. This website also allows you to see grant opportunities for games in classrooms as well as get connected to other educators who are doing these things in the classroom.

2) What are some practical implications for how this tool or this tool set can be used in classrooms?

- [Funbrain](#) K - 8: This popular site has both Math and Reading games. Students can use these games to practice math skills and language arts skills.
- [Discovery.com's Games](#) 3- up: This website has a variety of games that put students in real world problems and allows them to problem solve and play out scenarios for themselves.
- [Sheppard Software](#) all levels: This site is free and has different subject centered games and games specific to grade level. It is easy to use and navigate.
- [Prongo](#) all levels: This site is separated into grade levels all the way through high school and has age and content games that are appropriate for grade level.

3) How can I envision myself using this tool or this tool set (i.e: blogs, podcasts, etc) in my classroom?

This chapter was very interesting to me and gave me more tools and ideas for my future classroom than I planned. In my future classroom, I would want to use mainstream games such as angry birds to teach physics and 4 words one picture to teach vocabulary but also utilize the free websites that offer great games for children and are proven to be easy to use for children. I could also see myself having students create their own games in groups based on the unit we are studying and then have students peer evaluate each others games.

iPads in Education

1) How do I gain access to (URLs) and find tutorials and/or exploratory assistance with some presented tools of interest to me?

- Using ipads in the classroom can seem scary at first because as teachers we want to make sure that what we give the students is intentional so here is a [rubric](#) that allows educators to follow when selecting Apps for the ipad.
- ipads in the classroom are still fairly new to educators today so this [website](#) gives tons of articles and suggestions to help integrate ipads into your classroom.
- [Apple's Education Resources for the iPad](#) is a website that provides subject specific apps available for free and some to buy for teachers as well as [additional resources](#) to find news ways of using ipads in the classroom.

2) What are some practical implications for how this tool or this tool set can be used in

classrooms?

- [ZigZag Board](#) allows the ipad to become a whiteboard. You can resize images that you have drawn and play back what you have drawn. Students can use this to answers math and science problems and can play back what they did to show others or the teacher.
- [Preschool Memory Match](#) good for young children as a way to break the ice with the ipad. It has sounds and real pictures of real objects good for young children oral language development.
- [Times Table Quiz](#) gives students more practice on their times tables.
- [Autism Apps](#) great resource for Special education teachers to also incorporate ipads with children with disabilities.

3) How can I envision myself using this tool or this tool set (i.e: blogs, podcasts, etc) in my classroom?

I have worked in a classroom where we had an ipad and an itouch both were used during center time and sometimes during small group time. I would like to use them the same way but also as whiteboards. I think that it would be beneficial to have students be able to play back what they wrote on the ipad for me and others. I would also like to use them for readers. So much reading is being done on line and out of tablets that it is important for today's students to be able to do that.

Popular Social Networking Applications and Social Learning

1) How do I gain access to (URLs) and find tutorials and/or exploratory assistance with some presented tools of interest to me?

- Setting Up a Facebook Group for Your Class **(the link provided in the ebook did not work)** but here are the steps the ebook list.

1. Create a teacher profile separate from your personal profile
2. Ask students to create a limited profile with controlled settings, and to friend your new teacher profile
3. Create Lists & Groups for your classes
4. The document then goes on to discuss how to use various Facebook tools as part of the instructional process

- [“The Basics of a Facebook Page for Educators”](#) and [“Setting Up a Facebook Group for Your Class”](#) are youtube videos that explain how to setup a facebook page for the class and ways you can use the page in the class.
- Twitter is something that is also popping up in schools but is not as popular so here is a

quick [How-To video](#) on Twitter.

2) What are some practical implications for how this tool or this tool set can be used in classrooms?

- Facebook can be used as a way to connect with parents and students. Since we live in a busy society Facebook is one way to reach that on the go parent.
- [“Setting Up a Facebook Group for Your Class”](#) as mentioned before explains how the class can have a group page where teacher can post current event or topics and invite students to discuss allowing students to express their opinion and develop their writing skills.
- [Instagram](#) can also be used as way for teachers to post pictures and have students interpret what it means or maybe as extra information to go along with the unit they are studying.
- [Twitter](#) surveys and group discussion can happen on twitter similar to Facebook.

3) How can I envision myself using this tool or this tool set (i.e: blogs, podcasts, etc) in my classroom?

Out of the many social media avenues I would probably stick with Facebook and possibly Instagram in my classroom. I like the idea of being able to communicate with parents over Facebook because it can be private and there will be electronic documentation about what is discussed. Also using Facebook for the class would be a great way to get students who may not participate if in class discussions involved and again there would be great documentation. Lastly Instagram would be cool to try because pictures are powerful and being able for students and the teachers to post pictures they found or took to share with the class related to the subject being studied would get students more involved and engaged.

