

40 Web 2.0 Resources Every Teacher Should Know (in no particular order)



PhotoStory 3 is one of Microsoft's best kept secrets. This free software package is available as a download from MicroSoft. Using Photostory, you can create slideshows using your digital photos. With a single click, you can touch-up, crop, or rotate pictures, remove red-eye, add stunning special effects, soundtracks, and your own voice narration to your photo stories. Then, you can personalize them with titles and captions. Small file sizes make it easy to send your photo stories in an e-mail or watch them on your TV, a computer, or a Windows Mobile–based portable device.

<http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=11132>



Xtranormal is a website that hosts text-to-speech based computer animated video clips, featuring animated three-dimensional characters speaking in monotone computer voices. Users who log into the site may create videos by scripting the dialog and choosing from a menu of camera angles and predesigned characters and scenes. Most of the characters and backgrounds now cost a fee, but a few of the more basic are still free.



VUVOX is an easy to use production and instant sharing service that allows you to mix, create and blend your personal media – video, photos and music into rich personal expressions.

Vuvox.com is a site that allows users to make multimedia presentations in the form of interactive slide shows. The site provides the production tools for producing rich, interactive presentations from videos, photos, text and music. The resulting productions can be easily shared. Express is a scaled-down version of Studio and is the easiest to use. Collage allows users to create a panoramic slide show with interactive text, photos and videos. Studio allows the most creative control, providing the ability to create a number of different types of presentations. All three of the tools are browser based and very user friendly, featuring a WYSIWYG interface with drag and drop editing. Creation of a presentation is basically a 3-step process – collection of the media, creation of the presentation, and sharing the presentation. Users can choose to make their publications publicly available or to keep them private.



Prezi is an application which makes it possible to design presentations online. It's a unique flash based application that changes how you can create presentations. It means that you don't need to worry about creating individual slides, you can create nonlinear presentations, and then you can zoom in and out of a map containing all of your information.



Freerice is a free online game and learning tool, that allows players to raise rice to fight world hunger while learning through educational, multiple-choice games. For every question the user answers correctly, 10 grains of rice are donated to the World Food Programme. The available subjects include English vocabulary, multiplication tables, pre-algebra, chemical symbols (basic or intermediate), English grammar, basic foreign language vocabulary for English speakers (French, German, Italian, and Spanish), human anatomy, geography (flags of the world, world capitals, country identification and world landmarks), the identification of famous artwork, and literature

(classic and popular books). As you answer questions, your total score is displayed as a mound of rice and the amount grains. As of March 16, 2012, more than 95,184,521,080 grains of rice (enough to feed 4,957,527 people for one day) were donated by over a million registered players.



Animoto lets users design unique video slideshows with their personal photographs.

The user can select from a list of music provided by Animoto or upload their own MP3 to accompany their slide show. Completed slide shows can be easily shared on social networks and photo sites. The user's slideshow can be shown in different resolutions as

well, including 480p or web friendly 360p clips. Animoto also provides user with access to a cutting edge cinematic artificial intelligence. The user selects images, videos and music and the application puts them together just like a director would. The slide show can contain many elements, including still photos, videos and unique transitional elements as well as text to introduce each image or provide a short caption. <http://animoto.com/education>



Capzles is a social networking site that allows users to tell a story using pictures, video clips, audio tracks and text. Users are given the ability to place this media, called “moments”, together chronologically in a timeline. The result is called a “capzle”. Any of the moments can be viewed individually, or all of the moments can be viewed in progression. Users can share their capzles or individual moments with their friends by sending an email link. The Create tab on the navigation bar gives users access to the capzle creation applet used by the site. This applet allows users to easily add a title, description, and tags to their capzles. Users then add their media moments individually and choose the background colors and theme to be used with the capzle. Users can also add an audio track to be played in the background as their capzle is viewed. The capzle creation applet is very well designed and easy to use.



Edmodo is a private online social platform for teachers and students to share ideas, files, events and assignments. Built on a microblogging model, the site allows teachers the ability to handle a good deal of class activity online. Teachers can send out assignments, receive completed assignments and assign grades using the online platform. In addition, they can maintain a class calendar, store and share files, have a public (RSS) stream, and conduct polls. Teachers can also use the site to send text (SMS) alerts to students. Users have a home page where they can see a summary of recent activity for their class. The home page allows the teacher to make a new assignments, assign an event to the calendar, send out an alert, write a note to an individual or a group of students, and share links or files with students. When a link or file is shared, a message can be added that explains the contents. A number of filters can be applied to the summary view, including notes, alerts, events, assignments, links and files. Teachers can also assign grades to assignments, and students can easily view a summary of their grades on all assignments.



Glogster is a social networking platform that allows users to create “glogs”, which are blog entries that look like posters. A glog can consist of text, graphics, images, videos and a background image. The glog editor provides many predefined elements for use on the glog, such as various graphics and many different text styles. Users can drag and drop elements of the glog anywhere on the page, and rearrange them at any time. The completed glog can be saved at its own unique address on the Glogster.com site, easily shared via a link or via the major social networking sites, or embedded on the user’s website. GlogsterEDU is a sister site to Glogster that provides free safe and private support for interactive posters and collaborative class projects. <http://blog.edu.glogster.com/2011/10/27/edu-glogging-for-free-5-ways-to-make-the-most-of-your-single-free-account/>



Weebly is a site that allows users to create and publish their own websites and blogs for free. The site features an easy-to-use WYSIWYG site editor with plenty of pre-designed website templates to choose from. Users can easily add pages and choose from a large number of widgets that are available. The editor features a drag and drop interface, with page elements being shown at the top of the page. The user simply drags the element they want to place on the page and drops it in the desired location. Complete, multi-page websites can be easily created at Weebly, and multiple blogs can be added as well. Users can create and preview their site before publishing it to the web. When publishing, Weebly will even host the user’s own domain if desired, otherwise the site will be published to a subdomain of Weebly. The blog feature works well, and there are a number of specialized widgets that can be added to a user’s blog.



Symbaloo is a customizable start page tool that lets users add all their most important links in a format that is easy to use. The user’s webmix appears as sleek buttons with icons or logos. The user can drag and drop items to organize them in a way that is convenient and practical. The items, or tiles, can be searched so users can find those that are most relevant to the items they are adding. Users can view their home webmix or browse webmix collections. Symbaloo is a valuable tool for anyone who prefers a visual format over a text format, especially for webquests and other times when students may have to enter whole web addresses. The application is very easy to use and includes a sleek interface and stylish icons that make it easy to identify the link associated with each tile the user adds.

Tagxedo

Tagxedo: Dazzle your project with these word clouds. Choose a picture or shape, then add your words and voila, a visually enticing display. Tagxedo can be used to demonstrate speeches, animal reports, or anything else you can imagine.



ZooBurst: Add a new dimension to storytelling, reports, and presentations with ZooBurst's digital 3-D tool. In this safe and protected space, students create and customize pop-up stories; add their own voice to characters, upload artwork or items from a built-in database of over 10,000 free images and materials.



Save all of your websites with **iCyte**. This Web 2.0 tool will keep all of your sites just as you found them. This is a research management tool that lets you save and annotate entire websites. It doesn't just bookmark, but lets you annotate parts of websites for your citations.



Diigo, which stands for Digest of Internet Information, Groups and Other stuff," is a cloud based internet application that allows users to manage personal information. Users can collect items from any online resources into their library. They can then create interactive sticky notes and digital highlights in different colors. When the user returns to the resource, their notes and highlights remain present so they can quickly reference information as they need it. Using these tools, users of Diigo can read faster and retain information more efficiently. Diigo currently holds an impeccable standing as an effectual information-sharing platform across the web which has been instrumental in wholly redefining the procedure of social bookmarking through its praiseworthy features and functionality.



Audioboo.fm is an application that can be used to record audio clips for use online. Clips may be tagged, photos added, and locations mapped.



SlideShare holds the world's largest collaboration of presentations. It is a Web 2.0 based slide hosting service. Within this community, one can share, view, search and even get ideas from a huge selection of public presentations covering many topics. Presentations can be uploaded either publicly or privately. This tool could be used at the workplace, classroom or home office. SlideShare does for presentations what YouTube does for videos. By converting presentations into a Flash format and allowing the public access to much of its content, SlideShare is a community where individuals can research topics, get inspiration for their presentation or simply check out someone else's presentation.



Wordle is a site for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.



Wix is a WebTop publisher; it can be used to create all sorts of internet based content. Although it's most commonly used to create websites it can also be used for blogs, widgets and also myspace layouts. All of this web content can then be uploaded anywhere you like. Wix makes incorporating professional Flash animations and publications easy without needing to learn any code. You don't need to invest in any complicated or expensive applications.



Storybird is a service that uses collaborative storytelling to connect kids and families. Two (or more) people create a Storybird in a round robin fashion by writing their own text and inserting pictures. The final product can be printed, watched on screen, played with like a toy, or shared through a worldwide library. Storybird is also a simple publishing platform for writers and artists that allows them to experiment, publish their stories, and connect with their fans. Someone starts a Storybird by writing a few words or grabbing a few images. Then the other person takes a turn, adding more words and pictures. In as little as one or two turns they can finish and share a Storybird. It's that easy. And they can do it sitting side-by-side or across the country from each other.

The logo for timetoast features the word "timetoast" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background. To the right of the text is a small, stylized orange and yellow flame-like icon.

Timetoast is an application which makes it possible for users to design and build their own interactive timelines. These timelines can then be shared on the internet by embedding them into any site. It's possible for anyone to join Time Toast and they can start making their very own timelines straight away. It's free and the only thing you need is an email address.



Kerpoof is an online application for children; it's an image editing application that can be used for children to have great fun online. Kerpoof sparks children's imagination by allowing them to draw anything that takes their fancy. It's possible to create stunning pictures, stories, or even animated movies. The interface is very simple and attractive; everything is in 3D which makes using it much easier. Once you have completed your picture or movie you can then save it to your gallery and share with other people. You can then view the other pictures on the site and vote to choose your favorites. Kerpoof makes it really easy to create pictures and movies, creating a picture is just a matter of selecting the background and then dragging objects to the stage. You can link a number of these pictures together to create a story. There are thousands of objects, and you will always be able to find what you're looking for. Creating movies is also really easy; the movie interface is very clever because it's so easy to use. It will even teach children a little bit about animation without making them realize that they are in fact learning.



DoInk has created a virtual space for creative minds to come and share their drawings and animations with a community of others. There are also tools offered to help users get the word out about their newest creations through popular websites. Art can also be downloaded or printed to custom t-shirts. Anyone with a flair for animation and creativity could fall in love with DoInk. Here, budding artists can reach a wide audience while seasoned artists can flaunt their abilities for a fresh community of viewers. Although users can spend money on Doink, it is not a requirement, which may appeal even more to art students or anyone with a fondness for animation.

The logo for zunal.com features the text "zunal.com" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

Online Webquest
Creator

Zunal: A WebQuest is something that can be used for many different types of learning experiences. A WebQuest also gives the students the initiative to learn on their own, and it takes collaboration to learn when using a WebQuest. ZUNAL is a website that aids in creation of WebQuests, and it allows the students to discover information on their own. WebQuests pull together the most effective instructional practices into one integrated student activity. These Web-based projects use World Wide Web sites to help students develop problem-solving and decision-making skills. WebQuests are interesting and motivating to teachers and students. An effective WebQuest develops critical thinking skills and often includes a cooperative learning component. Students learn as they search for information using the Web, following a prescribed format that focuses on problem solving and authentic assessment. A well-written WebQuest requires students to go beyond simple fact finding. It asks them to analyze a variety of resources and use their creativity and critical-thinking skills to solve a problem. WebQuests help students analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information. Zunal offers multiple options which allow you to include an unlimited number of resources with your WebQuest. From attaching a file or a URL to adding a video link from a popular video website, you can enhance your WebQuest with varying types of documents and media.

The Blabberize logo features the word "Blabberize" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline, set against a blue background.

Blabberize is a very easy application that allows you to speak through a picture. Students can manipulate the picture to say what they want it to say. Teachers have used this resource for quick projects such as having students retell a story, book reviews, explain a math or science process, create biographies. The ideas are endless.



Khan Academy gives internet users a place to learn almost anything through instructional videos. The website includes thousands of videos on many different topics and activities. Users can browse an immense collection of categories and sub categories that include mathematics, art history, American civics, calculus, biology, banking, chemistry, astronomy, SAT preparation, investing, statistics and many more. Along with informative videos, the site also invites the user to practice what they have learned with an exercise. The user can work through a tree of exercises to become proficient in a specific subject.



Academia is an online resource focused on research. Here, users can contribute their own research or stay up to date on the most recent developments posted by other users. The site is divided by interests and departments, allowing for a diverse collection of data to be stored on many different topics. Academia helps provide a single go to

source for research of all kinds while constantly updating its content with the help of its users. Academia's focus is what makes it a valuable resource for students, educators and anyone interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of the world. By including any area of research, Academia has built a library of information rather than sticking with a single category. The site also acts as an online community, allowing users to follow the research of others or share their own findings. <http://www.academia.edu/>

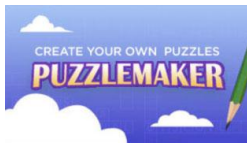


Voxy: Learning English can be very difficult. Voxy presents an interesting way to improve English reading and speaking skills. The system works by helping users learn English as they read news stories and articles that they find personally interesting. These real stories are chosen based on the user's interests. They can range from politics to celebrities and sports. By providing a natural resource to learn English, Voxy also allows users to adapt to expressions and other nuances of the English language. Voxy also implements fun games

that incorporate the stories the user reads to enhance the learning experience.



Jing: The power of this tool is that you can create a quick recording of the entire desktop, a specific window or drag a box around an area to record. This Mac and Windows friendly application can either capture an image or video to share in an e-mail, blog, IM or on your web site. The Jing Project allows you to save your image or video file to a media hosting server that can be viewed via a link. You also have the option to save the file to your computer as a SWF file. This is a great tool for recording the desktop, a PowerPoint, or other media to make personalized tutorials and other movies.



Puzzlemaker is a puzzle generation tool for teachers, students and parents. Create and print customized word search, criss-cross, math puzzles, and more-using your own word lists.



Mindomo is a Web 2.0 mind mapping tool that lets users create mind maps to organize, explore, analyze and evaluate ideas. To begin, the main topic/concept is entered into the topic bubble. Subtopics are then linked to the topic bubble. Users continue to add subtopic bubbles to the map. Multimedia can be linked to subtopics to help organize information and to make it more interactive. The site is simple and easy to use. The free basic account

allows users to create a maximum of 3 maps. Not all features are available for the free account but the tool still provides plenty of potential benefits for K-12 classrooms.



Zamzar enables you to convert files without having to download a software tool. You simply type in a URL or upload a file from your computer and the site converts the file to another format. You receive an email with a URL from where you can download the converted file - another helpful tool for the classroom. Zamzar supports conversion between a wide variety of different file formats. Currently on the free Zamzar service you can upload a maximum of 100 MB. Users can pay a monthly subscription in order to access preferential features, such as online file management, shorter response and queuing times and other benefits.



Splicd - YouTube offers lots of great videos for the classroom, but sometimes you don't need to show the whole video. With Splicd you can select the video segment you want and make it into its own shorter video. This website is a helpful tool for students and

teachers, very easy to use and requires no registration.

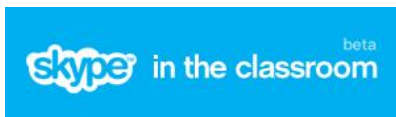


Poll Everywhere

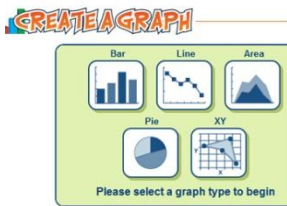
Poll Everywhere is the fastest way to create stylish real-time experiences for events using mobile devices. Poll Everywhere replaces expensive proprietary audience response hardware with standard web technology. It's the easiest way to gather live responses in any venue: conferences, presentations, classrooms, radio, tv, print — anywhere. Poll Everywhere is free for audiences of 40 people or less and we offer paid plans for larger audiences. K-12 and Higher Education semester-long plans are also available.



GeoGebra is a fabulous tool for any math teacher or students. The ability to dynamically look at mathematical concepts for free makes it one of the most useful web 2.0 tools for teaching and learning mathematics.



Skype in the classroom is a free global community that invites teachers to collaborate on classroom projects where they might use Skype, and share skills and inspiration around specific teaching needs. Teachers all over the world are using Skype to make learning more exciting and memorable. It's easy to see why: Skype offers an immediate way to help students discover new cultures, languages and ideas, all without leaving the classroom.



Create A Graph: Graphs and charts are great because they communicate information visually. For this reason, graphs are often used in newspapers, magazines and businesses around the world. NCES constantly uses graphs and charts in our publications and on the web. Sometimes, complicated information is difficult to understand and needs an illustration. Other times, a graph or chart helps impress people by getting your point across quickly and visually. Here you will find four different graphs and charts for you to consider. Maybe it will help explain what you are trying to show. Use homework problems, things you have a special interest in, or use some of the numbers you find elsewhere on this site. <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/graphing/classic/>



Wolfram|Alpha is an engine for computing answers and providing knowledge. It works by using its vast store of expert-level knowledge and algorithms to automatically answer questions, do analysis, and generate reports.



Review Game Zone is an online review game creation site where teachers and educators can create FREE online educational games and quizzes directly from their browser. There are 10 types of games students can play. Simply input the question data, type the answer choices and that's it! The games are automatically created and provide interactive review for exams or quizzes. No downloads or installation required, create your games in the cloud and access/edit them from anywhere in the world! Use games for non-motivated learners or to turn workbooks or flash cards into fun time. Games create a relaxing environment which helps motivate the learner. <http://www.reviewgamezone.com/>



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