Using Technology in Teaching and Learning

Overview of Effective Educational Technology Tools

Spring 2018 Overview of Effective Teacher Tech Tools

The entry for each tool includes a link to the site to sign up, log in and/or access after the name of the application. The description of the tool, under the title, provides an overview of functionality as well as benefits and uses. Finally, links below the description provide users with written instructions, ideas for use, more information about the tool or video tutorials to support learning and use.

Student Engagement and Assessment

Watch an interactive webinar and learn about the first four tools in the list: Flipgrid, Google Forms, Pear Deck and Quizlet Live.

Google Forms - https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/?tgif=d
Educators can collect student ideas, assess student learning and engage students in and out of class with Forms. From a check for understanding to a longer quiz, Forms offers many capabilities. Teachers can embed YouTube videos, images and web links into a Form and solicit various responses from students.

Using Google Forms by Eric Curtis - detailed instructions
GSuite Learning Center - Get Started with Forms
Google Forms Cheat Sheet
Delivering Peer Feedback with Google Forms
Google Forms, Easy as 1, 2, 3
Google Forms: Collect, Analyze, and Automatically Grade Student Data for Formative and Summative Assessments

Pear Deck - https://www.peardeck.com/
A group of educators created Pear Deck five years ago because they wanted an interactive presentation tool for classroom use. Some people call Pear Deck PowerPoint on steroids or clickers on steroids. Teachers present content while students engage with different slide types: multiple choice, text entry, numerical entry, drawing and draggable.

Getting Started with Pear Deck
Pear Deck’s YouTube Channel
Engage Students with Interactive Presentation Tool Pear Deck, Now Integrated with Google Slides
Getting Started with Pear Deck by David Boxer
Supercharge Google Slides with Pearl Deck Add-on
Flipgrid - https://admin.flipgrid.com/
This simple-to-use tool gets all students engaged! Classes can participate in video discussions through the mobile app or use computers with webcams. Teachers can start discussions with video prompts, online documents or videos. Students can provide feedback and respond to each other through virtual video chatting that is not real-time with this video-based discussion platform.

Catch the Flipgrid Fever! 15 Ways to Use Flipgrid in Your Class
10 Ways to Enhance Math Lessons with Flipgrid
Flipgrid: The Global Classroom Connections Maker
The Educator’s Guide to Flipgrid
Flipgrid: Engage and Assess Students with Video

Quizlet Live - https://quizlet.com/
Quizlet is an online engagement tool that provides retrieval practice and is effective for independent studying. Educators who use Quizlet can set up study methods that students interact with outside of class. On the other hand, Quizlet Live is an advanced functionality that requires groups of students to collaborate and work together to study and review content. Teachers implement Quizlet Live during class instruction time for effective and fun student engagement.

How to Use Quizlet Live
How to Play Quizlet Live
Engaging Students Using Quizlet Live
How I Made Learning Fun in My Classroom Using Quizlet Live

Kahoot - https://create.kahoot.it/login
When information retrieval is a fun, competitive game, students engage and learn. Kahoot offers an online platform accessible with any device for this purpose. Educators use Kahoot for review games, to introduce topics, for student surveys or to assess student learning. Interaction and engagement levels are high because speed and accuracy count! Students can participate in real-time or outside of regular class meeting times.

What is Kahoot?­
10 Ways to Electrify Class with Kahoot!
6 Creative Ways to Use the New Jumble Feature on Kahoot
Technology Review: Kahoot! In the Classroom

NowComment - https://nowcomment.com/
This application allows instructors to share documents, photos and videos online and have discussions surrounding those online files - embedded within and alongside the files on the screen. Collaboration can occur virtually or in-person. Sorting comments and replying to comments is easy so educators can manage and track rich conversations.

NowComment Help - instructions and video overviews
Group Discussions with NowComment
NowComment Review for Teachers
NowComment: Easy, Powerful, and Collaborative Evidence Analysis

Kami - https://www.kamihq.com/
This Google-linked application works in conjunction with Google accounts and allows users to edit and annotate PDF files. Students can digitally collaborate within documents and save their files to Google Drive.
A free version is available with useful features. A teacher plan provides a one-year subscription for $99 and offers numerous premium features like voice annotation and drawing shapes on documents.

Kami Help Center
How to Use Kami Video
Annotating PDF Files on Chromebooks with Kami - from Avra
Make PDFs Interactive with Kami

Collaboration, Communication and Curation

Google Sites - [https://sites.google.com/new?usp=jotspot_si](https://sites.google.com/new?usp=jotspot_si)
Google Sites provides an easy-to-use interface for teachers and students who wish to publish and share online content. Including YouTube video and files from Drive is simple. Educators often use Google Sites for digital portfolios, to communicate with students and the community or to support a flipped classroom.

Educators Can Still Curate Content without Storify
The NEW Google Sites - 2016 Tutorial Video
Get Started with Sites: What Can You Do with the New Sites?
NEW Google Sites: 10 Things Teachers Must Know
Google Sites Student Tutorial
How to Use the NEW Google Sites for Student Portfolios
5 Ideas for Using Google Sites in Your Classroom

Google Drive - [https://drive.google.com/](https://drive.google.com/)
Educators can share files, collaborate, comment and chat. Google Drive allows users to easily access files from any online device. Another benefit is the ability to organize and search, which leads to working more efficiently.

Using Google Drive for Collaboration
How to Collaborate Like a Pro with Google Docs
GSuite Learning Center - learn how to store, sync and share files with ease
Your Guide to Collaborative Document Editing with Google Docs
How to Use Google Drive for Collaboration
16 Ideas for Student Projects in Google Docs, Slides, & Forms

Adobe Spark - [https://spark.adobe.com/home/](https://spark.adobe.com/home/)
This free online application has three different products. Users can create pages, posts or videos. The interface is very simple and professional-looking. Teachers and students can create online stories that are visually appealing with Spark Page. Spark Video produces animated videos that can include narration and/or music.

Educators Can Still Curate Content without Storify
Adobe Spark in the Classroom: Create Videos, Graphics, and Web Stories in Minutes
Adobe Spark Page 2016 Tutorial
Adobe Spark: A Guide for Schools and Educators
16 Ways to Motivate Students in the Classroom Using Adobe Spark
**Screencast-O-Matic** - [https://screencast-o-matic.com/](https://screencast-o-matic.com/)
Educators and students can capture and narrate what is on their screens and output the final products in video format to share with others. Teachers who are employing blended learning may use this to record lessons, tutorials or other processes so they can share them virtually with their students who can then view them over and over.

*No Flipping Required: Screencasting Improves Instruction and Learning in All Classrooms*
*Downloading and Using Screencast-O-Matic*
*How Do I Use Screencast-O-Matic?*
*The Ultimate Screencasting Guide for Teachers and Students*

**Padlet** - [https://padlet.com/](https://padlet.com/)
Padlet is an organizational, collaborative online board. It serves as an effective brainstorming format and is accessible on all web devices. Educators and students can use it as an online portfolio. The online location is a great place to collect and store content and ideas.

*How to Use Padlet: A Fantastic Tool for Teaching*
*A Video Tutorial on How to Use Padlet - an Online Collaborative Learning Wall*
*30 Creative Ways to Use Padlet for Teachers and Students*
*20 Useful Ways to Use Padlet in Class Now*
*How to Create PDFs of Padlet Walls*

**Remind** - [https://www.remind.com/](https://www.remind.com/)
Remind is a free application/system that provides a platform for quick, effective and safe communication among teachers, students, parents and community members. By having students and/or parents sign up or text to join a Remind class, teachers can easily send messages to all stakeholders. Communicating about assignments, learning goals and deadlines is simple with this tool.

*Remind 2017 Tutorial - Teacher Messaging Tool*
*Remind: Resources and Best Practices*
*Tips for Using Remind in the Classroom*

**Maintaining a Virtual PLN**

**Twitter** - [https://twitter.com/](https://twitter.com/)
Twitter is much more than another social media platform. Think of it as a way of connecting with educators who are like-minded professionals learning and growing with each classroom experience. Develop a professional learning network filled with other teachers who can offer advice and anecdotes. Share with them or learn from them. You can connect and then choose how active you would like to be in this learning framework.

*Twitter: The Digital Cornerstone of an Educator’s Professional Learning Network*
*The Teacher’s Guide to Twitter*
*Twitter Support*
*Step 2: Using Twitter to Build Your PLN*
*Building Your PLN with Twitter: A Beginner’s Guide*
*Using Twitter for Professional Development*
Learning Management System

Google Classroom - https://classroom.google.com/

Google Classroom is a learning management system that provides an all-in-one place for teachers to assign work and share learning with students. Students can submit their work through Classroom, and the teacher can review assignments and return them to the students digitally. The platform can be interactive and support any type of classroom: traditional, flipped or blended. Mobile applications make using the tool simple and effective.

60 Smarter Ways to Use Google Classroom
Google Classroom Help
Transform Your Classroom with Google Classroom
Google Classroom Training Center
Tour of Google Classroom

To discover more educational technology tools to support learning and teaching or to find out if other teachers have reviewed a tool as effective, check out Common Sense Media’s ratings and reviews.