

Why Use Web 2.0 Tools in Education?

Grade/Age Level: Certified teachers with at least one year of experience in the classroom.

Subject Area: Elementary education

Time allotted for lesson: One 2 hour session

Description of lesson: In this lesson, learners will become familiar with using web 2.0 tools and understand how they can encourage certain cognitive skills in students such as creativity, collaboration and problem solving.

Curriculum Goals Addressed

- Guiding teachers in selection and integration of technology in the learning environment
- Acquisition of skills to create a change in the culture of ICT in the school

Technology Standards Addressed

No technology standards have been developed yet for teachers in Israel, however this lesson meets the following US standards as set forth by ISTE:

Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership

- a) Participate in local and global learning communities to explore creative applications of technology to improve student learning
- b) Evaluate and reflect on current research and professional practice on a regular basis to make effective use of existing and emerging digital tools and resources in support of student learning

Instructional Objectives

At the end of this lesson, learners will:

1. Identify which websites are web 2.0 tools and which are websites that push content, from a list provided by the instructor, and explain what differentiates the two categories of websites
2. Explain how using web 2.0 tools foster student creativity and encourage collaboration

Instructional Procedures

Lesson Set

Instructor will ask learners if they've ever created a webpage, and will then explain how web 2.0 tools allow you to do this without knowing any HTML or other coding by creating content online that other users can access.

Techniques and Activities

1. Instructor will discuss the image titled "What is a website?" (<http://edtech2.boisestate.edu/gopine/506/ClassroomTech/WhatIsWebsite.php>). This will introduce the concept of accessing web content and how web 2.0 tools have changed that experience for casual users
2. Instructor will model using wikispaces.com to create a webpage, including setting up a new account
3. Learners will set up an account at wikispaces.com and create a homepage for their class
4. Instructor will discuss the image titled "Collaboration"

(<http://edtech2.boisestate.edu/gopine/506/ClassroomTech/Collaboration.php>)

5. Instructor will talk about group wikis and how they encourage collaboration among students
6. Instructor will model using Tizmos.com to create a page of thumbnails, including setting up a new account
7. Learners will set up an account at Tizmos.com and create a page of thumbnails using 3-5 websites they use, or are interested in using, in their class
8. Instructor will model using Penzu.com, including setting up a new account
9. Learners will set up an account at Penzu.com and write 1-3 paragraphs about web 2.0 tools: how they work, why they are useful for teachers, and what they would like to accomplish with these tools in your own classroom. Learners will be advised that their ideas may be vague at this point and will become more clear over the course of the unit

Lesson Closure

Instructor will congratulate learners on creating their first website and explain that yes, it really can be that easy! If learners can do it in one lesson, they can certainly learn to support their students in the same activity. Learners will rotate around the room checking out the homepages that fellow learners have created, to get ideas for their own sites.

Adaptations for Special Learners

Learners who are uncomfortable using a new technology for the first time can partner up with another learner and observe them do the activity before trying on their own. Instructor will review the process once all learners have completed the activity and a step-by-step how-to list will be available for review at home on the course website.

Assessment/Evaluation

On their own at home, learners will watch the video titled “Wikis in Plain English,” available on Youtube.com (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY>). They will then create a second page on the wikis they created in class describing the difference between a standard content website and a collaborative wiki.

Learner Products

- Wiki consisting of at least one homepage and a second page describing the difference between a standard content website and a collaborative wiki
- Tizmos page containing 3-5 websites to share with students
- Penzu journal entry describing web 2.0 tools and their uses in the classroom