

Interactive white boards effective in English classrooms

If you're already using a Smart board or some other kind of interactive white board, you know it takes time to develop engaging, effective lessons while learning to use the IWB tools. So where can you go for help?

Ready-made Notebook lessons are available at <http://exchange.smarttech.com/#tab=0> and some are better than others, but at least these can give you a place to start. I particularly like the Notebook lessons that provide teacher instructions, including goals, standards and follow-up.

Even more helpful are the discussion groups where people not only share lessons, but also discuss ideas for improvement, assessment, strategies, etc. Many of the ideas on this page come from these resources.

Rubrics for growth in IWB use

<http://www.amphi.com/departments/technology/whiteboard/lessonplans.html>

http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/file/view/iwb_use_rubric.pdf

http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us/smart_rubric.pdf

<http://www1.center.k12.mo.us/EDTEch/SB/resources/spectrum.pdf>

Keep in mind, with effective IWB use, teachers do less and students do more. Minimize lessons where you are the "sage on the stage" and develop those where you are the "guide on the side," with students actively engaged with the IWB. Get the student to interact with the material, not you.

Even better, move to the student-centered stage with students developing their own presentations on the IWB, taking ownership for their learning and synthesizing information to create new knowledge for themselves.

IWB DISCUSSION/SHARING SITES

<http://iwbrevolution.ning.com>

<http://smartboardrevolution.ning.com>

DON'T MISS THIS:

Smartboard Revolution member Bruce White shares his tips for the following:

- Instructional White boards
- Tips on designing effective interactive lessons
- Classroom Response Systems
- Designing effective higher order questions
- Document Cameras
- Digital Cameras
- Video cameras and student work
- Cloud Computing / Web 2.0
- Adding Differentiated Instruction to lessons
- Teacher samples of lessons and activities (Bring and Brag)
- Teaching in the Digital Generation landscape

Download this file at Google Docs:

<https://docs.google.com/leaf?id=0B6PIBjEGHNNjNGUyNjk3MmQtZjEiYS00YzFiLTkzMTItYzQyY2U5ZmMlY2M4&hl=en&authkey=CKmx6pwM>

FOR SUCCESSFUL LESSON ACTIVITIES, TEACHERS NEED TO LEARN THREE SKILLS

1. INTERACTIVITY

- What bells and whistles do you add?
- Why do you need the particular activity or bells and whistles?
- What do you leave out?
- How do you engage all your students and tailor lessons and activities to include different learning styles?

2. PROFESSIONAL-LOOKING LESSONS

- The lesson isn't too glitzy too flashy, so students do not get lost in the glitz and bells and whistles.
- The WOW factor doesn't interfere with them understanding what they are to be learning.
- Consistent fonts and appropriate use of colors

3. SHARING

- When do you share, and where do you share?
- Copyright issues
- Use Creative Commons material

ASK YOURSELF:

What makes an effective interactive lesson?

What makes a digital lesson successful?

- Is the interactiveness appropriate for the grade and levels: are the students advanced users or just beginners?
- Is the content appropriate for where are the students in the course, year and skills?
- What was successful and not so successful about the lesson and what did the students learn compared to what you thought they would learn?
- Is the lesson shareable? Do you share?
- Are you reaching learning styles of the students in the classroom?
- Do you have links to the Web and other resources, video streaming....
- Is the focus more on content than flash?

Adapted from Bruce White's blog at <http://smartboardrevolution.ning.com/profiles/blogs/designing-effective-notebook>