

FOR CLASS >> from Samantha Forster

Free Tech Tools for Teachers



Sami Forster, New Berlin West High School, shares her hand-out from her presentation at the Oct. 1 WCTE meeting.

Online Composition:

- **Blogger.com** – students/teacher have a blank slate to design a space for composition. Could be used as a journal, reaction to class, or analysis of literature.
- **Wikispaces.com** – a place for student/teacher material, place for discussion (can be used as an editing tool for revision process) – think outside the box and use as a class generated glossary.
- **Weebly.com** – incredibly easy website making tool. Students could have their own website with various aspects of class (journal, reaction, reading) ***This is also a great tool for a teacher to have a class website.***
- **Linoit.com / Wallwisher.com** – sticky note websites, generate a question or prompt and have students log on outside or inside class and post responses using text, images, or videos. Great tool! Could also be used as a reminder board for the class, or a news board for current events.

Presentation Tools:

- **Prezi.com** – The new Power Point. Traditional white board layout where various text, images, and video can be placed. The user then creates a path for the sequencing of information. Very user friendly, students enjoy working with this tool. It is very good for the big picture thinker.
- **Glogster.edu** – A version of an online poster or scrapbooking. This tool is great for all ages; however, middle school level seems to really enjoy. This site offers great oversight of class and students work by the teacher, good tracking. This could be used for book review, research presentation, personal narrative, etc...

Classroom Management Tools:

- **Weebly.com** – Free option to use text, video, images, upload links and documents. Great options for design, and very user friendly. Ability to embed various web applications. Could be used similar to Moodle.
- **Jing / Screencast.com** – This tool combined with Weebly could revolutionize the way your classroom functions and the access to material that students have outside of the classroom. Jing is a screen shot capturing program; however, there is also the ability to make five minute long videos. Think a PowerPoint presentation that you use to lecture in class, but now you can record your lecture with the sequencing of the slides and embed them on your Weebly website.
 - Great for students who are absent. Handouts and make-up work don't mimic the class time that they missed.
 - Great for review. Also, create "how-to" videos for other tech tools.