Title of Session: Using Wikis in the Classroom
Moderator: Adam Frey
Title of File: 20061011wikispaces
Date: October 11, 2006

Room: After School Online

BJB2: Welcome, everyone to this very SPECIAL discussion!

BJB2: I'd like to thank Adam for agreeing to come talk with the Tapped In members...I know lots of your are as excited as I am

BJB2: we usually start all the Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please keep your intro brief, but let Adam know where you are located and what you teach or what interests you about the topic.

BJB2: I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and am interested in wikis for digital storytelling

HeatherBu: I'm a middle school Tech teacher, and I use a wikispace with my 8th grade Adv. Tech students.

CynthiaSA: I'm a k-8 media specialist in Dearborn, MI. And my school recently attempted to start using wikis, but no really knows how.

DebL: I teach in Wyoming at an elementary school where I am the librarian/tech facilitator. I want to learn how to better wikis. I'm pretty new to using them.

PeggyG: Peggy George, Arizona State University, Lecturer--very interested in learning all I can about wikis and blogs both for my own use as an instructor and for teaching my student teachers.

MaureenB: teach 4th grade in Putnam Valley, NY and looking for ways to keep my students interested in writing

FredK: I am a tutor for the Pushmataha County Literacy Council in SE Oklahoma . I know almost nothing about wikis

GwynethJ: hi! I'm a middle school library media technology specialist in Howard County Maryland and a graduate instructor at Johns Hopkins University

DonnaP: Hi I am Donna and I from PA, I want to learn about the use of wikis in the classroom.

SusanGst1: Hi, I teach third grade in NJ, and I'd like to use Wiki pages for science.

BrianPC: I teach educational technology at the New York Institute of Technology. I'm a fan of wikis and would like to use them in my classes.

BrigitteM: Hi. I'm a middle school teacher of Spanish in here for a graduate class requirement through University of Martha Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

MaryHil: Thank you. I am Mary and I teach EFL in Japan.

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk here, and will soon be teaching an online class at Concordia University teaching teachers how to use tech in the classroom (focusing on blogs, but will delve into wikis).

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to our very special guest, Adam Frey

AdamFr: Hi everyone. Thanks so much for coming along and for the introductions

AdamFr: I have a little outline of the session today but please do interrupt with questions at any time. I'd like to talk about what you want to hear so direct me in that direction

AdamFr: I'm co-founder of Wikispaces and we've been working with teachers for the last year or so and have been learning a lot about how wikis can be valuable in the classroom so I'm glad to share what we've learnt with you

AdamFr: So here are the topics I planned to cover:

AdamFr: What is a wiki? What's the difference between a wiki and a blog?

AdamFr: How do I get a wiki? What are my options?

AdamFr: Are wikis secure? How do I manage my students' experience?

AdamFr: How should I use wikis in my classroom? What are some good examples of wikis in classrooms?

AdamFr: OK, so how do I use Wikispaces? A step by step tutorial.

AdamFr: Does that sound OK? Is there anything anyone would like to request at this point?

AdamFr: Don't be shy.

HeatherBu: sounds good to me

DebL: It sounds perfect to me.

AndreaRT: an introduction is exactly where I'm at! I'm interested in learning about classroom use.

BJB2: sounds great, Adam. Perhaps you can also give us some examples of how to use a wiki across the curriculum

MaryHil: Yes, sounds great. Looking forward to the examples!

DonnaP: sounds great--what about ethical issues that come up with student use

BrianPC: sounds good

AdamFr: Great, let's get started

AdamFr: So, first, what is a wiki.

AdamFr: In very simple terms, a wiki is a web page with an edit button on it.

AdamFr: At its core, a wiki just enables you to edit a web page really easily. Click edit, make your changes, click save, and you're done

AdamFr: The power comes when you use a wiki in a group. They are a really easy, fun, and powerful way for groups to get work done.

AdamFr: If you like, take a look at this page while I'm talking:

AdamFr: http://sandbox.wikispaces.com/tappedin

AdamFr: Click "Edit this page" and play around.

HeatherBu . o O (Please hold down the Ctrl key when you click on the link)

AdamFr: Teachers often ask the different between a blog and a wiki.

GwynethJ: can't you project anymore?

JeffC: yes but popup blockers may log people out Gwyneth.

AdamFr: The simple answer is that a blog is like a journal. It's great if you want to have an ongoing dialogue or discussion. Say, if the kids are keeping a daily diary about their homework, or about any topic.

AdamFr: A wiki, however, is less about new content every day, and more about evolving the same content over time.

AdamFr: So for example, on a wiki, you could have a student post an essay, and then another student can make some additions and corrections, and another, and another, and over time the essay improves and becomes the work of the whole class.

AdamFr: Blogs are about communicating, wikis are about getting work done, or working together

AdamFr: Does that make sense? What do people think of that distinction?

BJB2 nods to Adam. Our favorite word in Tapped In is collaboration

SusanGst1: can each you have multiple pages on the same site - like one for each student (if they want to post lots of essays, for example)

BJB2: Marguerite, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on a url

AdamFr: Yes, you can. You can have multiple pages. We'll talk more about that in a moment.

AdamFr: A couple of other important points about wikis

GwynethJ . o O (firefox works better with the site....)

AdamFr: 1) Wikis track every change that any user makes. So you can always go back and see what has been done previously, when and by whom. And you can always go back to any previous version at any time

MaureenB: that feature sounds most helpful

AdamFr: 2) Wikis don't have to be entirely public (like wikipedia). You can have a private wiki just for your class or group

GwynethJ: Adam, if you sign up for one of the FREE wikis for teachers/educators can you make it NON private so people can see it?

AndreaRT: do you have some other website examples of private wikis?

GwynethJ: https://mhmsmedia.wikispaces.com/

MargueriGG: I am in a middle school situation, do you think this age level can handle wikis

AdamFr: Gwyneth, yes you can

HeatherBu: Yes, Marguerite. My kids use ours a lot.

AdamFr: Marguerite, we have teachers using wikis in 3rd and 4th grade so sure

HeatherBu . o O (8th grade)

MargueriGG: Great, I have been looking for something like this to use in the computer lab

GwynethJ: thanks cause I have one of the FREE wikis offered to teachers....from wikispaces....but it's set to private so can I show it to you guys or not? would you have to join to see it?...I couldn't find today how to set it to NON private

AdamFr: A few definitions:

BJB2 listens to Adam

GwynethJ . o O (listens too...[grins to bj])

AdamFr: A "space" is one wiki. It can have as many pages as you want, and can have members who have access (if it's private)

MargueriGG: I need to check it out a little more...excuse me for a minute

AdamFr: A "page" is a web page in the wiki. It can have content on in, and can be linked to other pages inside and outside of the space by hyperlinks

AdamFr: Pages can also have pictures, videos, etc. but are primarily about text

SusanGst1: can you link pages to outside links and still keep the pages secure?

AdamFr: Each page also has multiple versions. A complete history of that page. You can "revert" to a previous version at any time.

AdamFr: Susan, yes, having a link doesn't allow anyone in, just out

AdamFr: OK, any questions or should we proceed to How to get a wiki?

BJB2 . o O (please hold questions for a minute so Adam can finish his explanation)

DonnaP: so as a teacher I can post a student's essay anonymously and have students comment about it

MargueriGG: Does anyone have any lesson ideas I could tie the use of a Wiki with?

AdamFr: Donna, sure. They can comment, but they can also edit the essay directly.

DonnaP: thanks

AdamFr: Margeurite, we'll look at some sample teacher wikis a little later on. For those who want to get a head start, you may want to have a look at http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/. It's something we just started but we hope to get lots of teachers involved

MargueriGG: Ok....thanks

CynthiaSA joined the room.

AdamFr: OK, how many people would like to step through the experience of starting their own wiki?

MaureenB: yeah

BrianPC: yes

BrigitteM: I would like to know.

CynthiaSA: please

MargueriGG: I am really new to this but I will try

JaniceAK: yes

SusanGst1: Yes, thanks.

FredK: Good

AdamFr: Good. It will be easy.

MaryHil: Great!

PeggyG: Yes definitely!

SheilaR: I've started one but need to know more.

AdamFr: Step 1) Go here: http://www.wikispaces.com/

AdamFr: Is there anyone who doesn't see the big green box on the right that says "Join Now - Free!"?

HeatherBu . o O (Remember to hold down the Ctrl key when you click the link)

GwynethJ: my wikispaces is now set to protected...not private and can be viewed by anyone... I have a podcast on it

GwynethJ: https://mhmsmedia.wikispaces.com/

MargueriGG: Yep, I remembered too....LOL

AdamFr: if you already have a space and an account just watch along, no need to do it again

AdamFr: Step 2) Type in a username, password, email address, and space name, and click join

DonnaP: I would like to recommend the help documentation for this site. I found it helpful today.

AdamFr: You should see the home page of your new wiki in front of you. It will say "Welcome to the [spacename] space" at the top and then have some basic information after that

AdamFr: So signing up and starting a space is that simple.

GwynethJ . o O (it took me less than 2 min to sign up last week)

AdamFr: Step 3) Click "Edit This Page" and just type in a little hello message to yourself and then click save

AdamFr: Is everyone with me?

MargueriGG: yes

BrianPC: yes

DebL: yes

SusanGst1: yes

HeatherBu nods

AdamFr: great. So you've got your home page, let's create a second page.

GwynethJ: yup!

AdamFr: Step 3) Click "Edit this Page"

MaureenB: yes

AdamFr: Type in a new word, say Homework

AdamFr: Select that word and click the little button at the top of the page that looks like a globe with a chain link on it

AdamFr: A window will pop up. Just click OK when it does

AdamFr: Then, once the popup goes away, click "Save"

MargueriGG: So far so good...

AdamFr: Now you'll notice that word is a link. Click on it

AdamFr: Now you're on the homework page. Edit it, and write "This is the page where we put our homework"

AdamFr: You'll see on the left under "Navigation" that you can click "Home" to go back to the home page

AdamFr: now you know how to setup a space, how to add pages, and how to edit pages. Easy no?

MargueriGG: Great....easy!!!

BrianPC: this is great

GwynethJ: very easy...I've only had my wiki a week and already posted a Podcast on it

MargueriGG: I can't wait to show this to other teachers at my school

GwynethJ . o O (but it's just a cheezy ODEO greeting)

AdamFr: any questions or should we move on?

GwynethJ: Adam? what about kids and the email address prob with kids under 13?

BrigitteM: Hang on. When I hit save it brought me to a page which does not have my link.

MaryHil: Great explanation, Adam. I could do it easily!

GwynethJ: child protection act of 1999

SusanGst1: You might cover this later, but can we create links to word documents?

AdamFr: OK Brigitte, can you copy the address of your page and paste it here?

GwynethJ . o O (great question about the Word docs)

AdamFr: Susan, yes you can, I'll show you that in a moment

SusanGst1: thanks!

BrigitteM: http://spanish1a.wikispaces.com/tarea

AdamFr: Gwyneth, we don't require email addresses for anyone so if you like, you can create accounts for your kids with no identifying information

GwynethJ: really? I didn't realize that and they can still edit??

HeatherBu listens eagerly

AdamFr: OK Brigitte, you're on the subpage, that you've created. Click "Home" on the left to go back to the home page.

AdamFr: Gwyneth, Yep, they can still edit.

GwynethJ grins at Heather

HeatherBu winks to Gwyneth

GwynethJ: cool beans, thanks!

AdamFr: Brigitte, are you comfortable now?

MargueriGG: I thought I was the only one to say "cool beans" LOL

JeffC: ¿por qué no está esto en español?

JeffC: that was my request to join the Spanish wiki comment.

AdamFr: OK, well let's move on

MargueriGG: okay

AdamFr: The next thing you'll likely want to do is to get your students or colleagues involved in your new wiki. There are a few ways to do that.

AdamFr: Everyone click "Manage Space" at the left side of the page

AdamFr: Then at the bottom, click "Invite People"

GwynethJ . o O (can/t wait to learn about uploading Word docs , this is Grrrreat!)

AdamFr: Now, don't actually do this now, but you can use this form to invite people by using their email addresses.

AdamFr: Each person you invite will get an email with a link, when they click it, they will be asked to create an account, and they will automatically be made a member of your space

AdamFr: But what if you want to invite students without email addresses?

GwynethJ . o O (he reads her mind!!!)

GwynethJ grins yeah...!

AdamFr: In that case, all you have to do is send us (help@wikispaces.com) a list of usernames and passwords, and we can create all of your accounts for you. You can then just tell the students what their username and password is and show them how to login

HeatherBu . o O (Wonderful!!!)

MargueriGG: oh wow, that is GREAT!!!

GwynethJ resists jumping up and down but just barely

MaryHil: The 'manage' page looks user friendly

MargueriGG: Same here Gwyneth!!!

AdamFr: OK. Now everyone go back to your home page. By popular demand we'll look at how to upload files and images

AdamFr: Once you're on your home page, click "Edit this Page" again

AdamFr: You'll see a little button at the top that looks like a tree in a box. Click it

AdamFr: Using the dialog that popped up, you can upload any type of file.

AdamFr: Click Browse, select a file on your computer, Then click "Upload File"

MargueriGG: so animations will work too?

AdamFr: Once the circle stops spinning, double click on the file you've uploaded and it will be inserted on the page

AdamFr: Margeurite, sure. Animations work fine

GwynethJ: oh boy, this is great Adam!

GwynethJ: I love my new wiki even more than before!

SusanGst1: Is this the tree in the pot? I think popups blockers blocking it...

MaryHil: Me too!

AdamFr: Susan, no, the tree in the box. Next to the link button and the little TV

BrigitteM: Where do you click once the circle stops spinning?

SusanGst1: thanks

AdamFr: If you don't see an image or a file, click "Images Only" or "Files Only" to find your new file. Then double click on the file itself.

AdamFr: Once you're done, close the dialog, and click save.

BrigitteM: Got it. Thanks.

MargueriGG: got it...

AdamFr: We're kind of short on time, so let me know when you're done and I'll cover a couple of other important things quickly and then ask for questions

DebL: Ready for more!

GwynethJ . o O (trying to upload a PPT on Internet Safety...wonders if there is a SIZE limit?)

BrianPC: done

AdamFr: Each file can be up to 10MB.

AdamFr: OK, a few final comments before questions:

AdamFr: 1) Wikispaces has a special offer for K-12 teachers. K-12 teachers get free Plus spaces. You can read about it here: http://www.wikispaces.com/t/x/teachers100K

GwynethJ grins at Adam with a thumbs up] that's Awesome!

AdamFr: If you already have a space and you want to be upgraded, just email us.

AdamFr: Please, spread the word about our offer. We want to give away 100,000 Plus spaces to teachers and we have quite a way to go.

GwynethJ . o O (was very smart and generous of them to offer that, that's why she joined up just last week)

AdamFr: 2) http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/ Is a place we're using to try to build a resource for teachers who want to learn how to use wikis. Please contribute to it and pass it around as well

GwynethJ: I'm the president of the media specialists in my county and a big mouth...I already emailed your offer to my media listserve/conference...thank you, btw!

GwynethJ: and I love how you can add podcasts!

MargueriGG: I am the tech coordinator for the district...and I too have a big mouth.....this is great!!!

AdamFr: So since we have 10 minutes left, I'll open it to questions. Obviously there's a lot more to learn so perhaps we'll do another session

GwynethJ winks at MargGG

AdamFr: Oh, and make sure to check out http://www.wikispaces.com/help+index to learn more

BJB2 smiles happily...wonderful!

AdamFr: So, any questions?

HeatherBu hopes for more sessions!

ECCEGst18: Yes, I am new to Tapped In so I hope I am asking correctly. I uploaded some word documents but some of them showed up as octet-stream files, why?

BrigitteM: Are the wikis on the new educators' site going to be protected from editing?

AdamFr: ECCE, Did you upload to Wikispaces or to TappedIn?

ECCEGst18: To my Wiki

AdamFr: Brigitte, the 100,000 wikis we are giving away can be made public, protected, or private

MaryHil: could you share some good examples of educational wikis with us, please?

AdamFr: ECCE, if your browser doesn't recognize the file type, it may initially show up as octet-stream, but it won't affect your ability to use the file

GwynethJ: just uploaded 4.4 PPT of an Internet Safety slideshow...worked just dandy!!!

PeggyG: Is the resource only for K-12 teachers or can it be used for free by student teachers and university faculty?

MargueriGG: Yes, some examples

ECCEGst18: Thanks, I have a teacher Wikispace since August so I assume I already have the upgrade.

AdamFr: I recommend the Westwood space, and the Aristotle Experiment space, both described and linked to here: http://www.wikispaces.com/space+of+the+month

MaureenB: the wiki we just made is that the upgrade version?

GwynethJ: Adam...is the diff between a Wiki and a blog the editing feature then?

AdamFr: Both are great examples of teachers using wikis and both teachers have blogs where they talk about what they are doing

GwynethJ: sweet!

AdamFr: Maureen, the wiki you just made isn't on the teacher plan but email help@wikispaces.com and we'll upgrade you

AdamFr: Peggy, the offer is for anyone if K-12. So students, teachers, administrators, parents, etc.

MaureenB: thanks

ECCEGst18: Thanks I will look at the samples, as I am just starting to use a private space for my Latin students.

AdamFr: Not University

MaryHil: thanks for the samples. I will take a closer look at them..

BJB2: what does the upgrade include?

GwynethJ: thanks Adam! I'm gonna use this also with my Johns Hopkins Grad students, too!!!! great for groups!

AdamFr: Gwyneth, a blog is like a diary, a wiki is like a whiteboard. Blogs are about talking, wikis are about working together

GwynethJ: great explanation!

AdamFr: The upgrade takes you to Plus, as described here:
http://www.wikispaces.com/site/pricing

BJB2: thanks, Adam

DonnaP: Thank you

AndreaRT: Thanks!

BrianPC: thanks. Very interesting

DebL: Thank you!

AdamFr: One more thing, we also offer a Private Label service which is like having your very own wikispaces environment for an organization (school, university, non-profit, company, etc.) So if you know anyone who might be interested, let them know

FredK: Thanks for the help

SusanGst1: Thank you.

MargueriGG: Thanks....I really enjoyed this!!!!

BrigitteM: One more thing: Is it safe to let a stranger become a member of your space?

MaureenB: Thanks

GwynethJ: thanks so much, Adam!!! you have a great product and you really CARE about education...you can tell! [beamy smile]

AdamFr: So we're almost done, any more questions, any time, just email us at help@wikispaces.com We're always happy to help. And spread the word.

JaniceAK: thank you. I've never tried a wiki or even a group discussion before.

HeatherBu: Thank you, Adam!

BJB2: please email me if you decide to come back to Tapped In, Adam...looks like you have an eager fan club

AdamFr: Brigitte, it's "safe" as long as you monitor what they do. If they abuse the privilege, you can delete what they did and kick them out

ECCEGst18: Adam, I appreciate the help.

AdamFr: OK BJ. Let's setup another chat sometime soon.

BJB2 nods

MargueriGG: Bye everyone!

AdamFr: Alright, thank you so much everyone. Bye.

BrianPC: bye

MaryHil: Thanks! bye

BrigitteM: Gracias. Adios.

PeggyG: Yes, this has been great. I'd love to see a follow-up session.

CynthiaSA: A follow up would be great.

PeggyG: It would be great to see some of the wikis created by the participants in another session.

HeatherBu: we used a wikispace last year, for the teachers to create a building Tech Plan

HeatherBu: It was great, Peggy.

GwynethJ: BJ [smiles] as always, you rock!!!!

GwynethJ: thanks everyone!

GwynethJ trundles off to her virtual bog office of TI

BJB2 sighs happily

HeatherBu: Great job!

CynthiaSA: Thanks for the great resource.

HeatherBu: Adam, thank you *so* much. You've given me some new ideas.

FredK: Collaboration is the key word as I see it for wikis. Maybe the literacy council can get tutors working with their students on wikis. I hope

BJB2 nods to Fred. Sounds excellent