

**Title of Session:** Frazel Features - Google for Educators

**Moderator:** Midge Frazel

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Room: Frazel Features Group

**BJB2:** welcome to this month's Frazel Features, everyone!

**MidgeF:** I live in Massachusetts and am a writer and educator of teachers

**BJB2:** we usually start Tapped In discussions with introductions...

**BJB2:** can you please tell Midge where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach?

**BJB2:** I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

**MelissaPer:** I am from Texas and taking courses to teach English

**BJB2:** thanks, Melissa

**BJB2** looks in Hannah's direction

**HannahN:** I am also from Texas and am currently student teaching in 4th grade

**BJB2:** what grade level, Melissa?

**MidgeF:** Well, we have been having a lot of new friends from Texas the last couple sessions

**MelissaPer:** 9-12 grade

**BJB2:** thanks...Midge, it's all yours!

**BJB2:** Midge's topic for today is Google for Educators

**MidgeF:** OK Last time we investigated the Google stuff for educators

**MidgeF:** <http://www.google.com/educators/activities.html>

**MidgeF:** That link was for the activities Google offers

**BJB2:** just learned about Google Lit Trips...incredible!

**MidgeF:** Google is more than a search engine these days and I am currently writing a book about the things they offer that will be of use to teachers and their students

**MidgeF:** Pardon my bad typing today, Writing all day does make for tired fingers

**MidgeF:** To use most of the great things at Google, you need a Google account

**BJB2:** is it difficult to get a google account?

**MidgeF:** No very easy and free

**MidgeF:** <http://www.google.com/accounts>

**BJB2:** are you getting the urls ok, Melissa and Hannah?

**BJB2:** . o O ( a reminder that all urls will be in your transcripts )

**HannahN:** yes, if you have a gmail account is that the same one?

**MidgeF:** If you have a Gmail email account you use that, if not, you enter a valid email address

**MelissaPer:** yes, I didn't realize that you could have a google account

**MelissaPer:** I always thought it was just a search engine only

**MidgeF:** The account is so the apps that they have are hidden privately

**MidgeF:** if you choose to use them

**MelissaPer:** ok

**MidgeF:** It is OK for this session if you don't have one right now.

**MidgeF:** I thought I'd tell you about a couple of them tonight that you might think are good

**MidgeF:** One is called iGoogle

**MidgeF:** and you need a Google Account to set it up.

**MidgeF:** You can go and see the introduction page for it without signing up

**MidgeF:** [www.google.com/ig](http://www.google.com/ig)

**MidgeF:** sorry forgot the beginning

**MidgeF:** <http://www.google.com/ig>

**MidgeF:** notice the ending is ig for iGoogle

**MidgeF:** Anyway, if you get there and it asks you to sign in don't worry.

**MidgeF:** I'll tell you about it.

**MidgeF:** iGoogle is a customizable home page that is fun

**MidgeF:** Once you are signed into a Google account, you can set one up with that URL

**MidgeF:** On the page you are "making" are tiny applications you add called Gadgets

**MidgeF:** A gadget ranges from completely silly

**MidgeF:** to very useful.

**MidgeF:** Are you all OK?

**BJB2** nods

**HannahN:** yes

**MelissaPer:** yes

**MidgeF:** I would say that they are getting a Google Account. That takes a bit and involves getting an email to respond to

**MidgeF:** Good! I have talked to myself a lot today and am getting used to it.

**BJB2:** Midge, how would a 4th grade teacher use this application?

**MidgeF:** on my iGoogle page, I have a gadget that tells me the phases of the moon

**BJB2** . o O ( or how would a high school teacher use it? )

**HannahN:** I was checking out the gadgets, they are pretty cool!

**MidgeF:** Which is often part of 4th or 5th grade science

**MelissaPer:** Getting the account is easy and the gadgets are very neat

**MidgeF:** It is also important to know when it is a full moon

**MidgeF:** Great!

**BJB2** nods solemnly.

**MidgeF:** There are so many I spent about 2 hours trying them out

**MelissaPer:** I could see how the word of the day would be good for an English teacher

**MidgeF:** They are easy to move around on the page. Drag by the title bar of the gadget

**MelissaPer:** Even the quote of the day could be useful to bring about a writing exercise.

**MidgeF:** Yes! I love all the language ones.

**MidgeF:** I have the This day in History

**MidgeF:** and the National Geographic picture of the day

**MelissaPer:** it will take some time to play with this

**MidgeF:** I also have the date and Time and the weather

**BJB2:** for English there is also the How to of the day...very cool

**MidgeF:** It is a good thing to look at when I first use my computer in the morning

**MidgeF:** The directions say that tech savvy teens can make gadgets of their own.

**MidgeF:** I put some fun stuff on another tab like an aquarium and some fireworks

**MidgeF:** My favorite thing is the background theme that you can pick..

**MidgeF:** I put the GRE Word of the day on today (hoping to make me smarter)

**BJB2** smiles

**BJB2** . o O ( did it work? )

**MidgeF:** The good thing is at the top of the page you can quickly sign out of your Google account

**MidgeF:** or return to the regular Web search page

**HannahN:** This is great... I can see myself spending way too much time playing with this

**MidgeF:** At the very bottom of the page is the Help link

**MidgeF:** There is something else I have used called pageflakes which is much like this

**MidgeF:** You can make this a classroom page with this link that is very long

**MidgeF:** <http://www.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=25557&ctx=sibling>

**MidgeF:** Are you having fun?

**HannahN:** yes!

**MelissaPer:** a new toy to play with

**MidgeF:** The more you add and delete the gadgets the better you get at it and find the ones

**MidgeF:** you think would be good for the classroom

**MidgeF:** OK lets try out something else I found

**MelissaPer:** yes - I can see teacher using this

**MelissaPer:** I will use this when I begin to teach

**MidgeF:** This one doesn't involve the Google Account and is very good for anyone even those who aren't teachers

**HannahN:** This would be fun for the students too

**MidgeF:** I think iGoogle would be good practice for students to learn to make decisions about what is good and what is just stupid

**MidgeF:** The other one I wanted to show you is called Google SMS

**MidgeF:** When you are ready, let me know

**HannahN:** ready

**MidgeF:** (Hard to stop playing with iGoogle, I know)

**MidgeF:** OK

**MidgeF:** SMS means Short Message Service and is another way of using text messaging

**MidgeF:** You can try it out at Google without using your cell phone

**MidgeF:** But, it can be done with your cell phone if you have text messaging as part of your cell package

**MidgeF:** <http://www.google.com/mobile/sms/>

**MidgeF:** See the cell phone simulator?

**MidgeF:** A little ways down on the page are the things you can do with this

**MidgeF:** my favorites are weather and glossary

**MidgeF:** I see that since you are not here, you must have figured it out!

**HannahN:** got it

**MidgeF:** To use this with a cell phone with txt messaging

**MelissaPer:** ok

**MidgeF:** you start a new text message (and clear any signature you set up before)

**MidgeF:** so you have a blank screen

**MidgeF:** you type your "operator word" like weather then a space and the zipcode of the place you want to see the weather

**MidgeF:** then you send the txt to 46645 which is GOOGL

**MidgeF:** In a bit, they will txt you the weather

**MidgeF:** I like this when I am away and want to know the weather back home

**MidgeF:** Now, some schools don't allow cell phones in school but that might change

**MidgeF:** I listened to a lecture about Cell phones in education and learned a lot about things you can do with a cell phone

**MidgeF:** It was very cool. I downloaded the session to my iPod. but you can see it online, I think

**MidgeF:** <http://toytotool.blogspot.com/>

**MidgeF:** Kids might beg to use the simulated cell phone to look up words on the screen

**MidgeF:** I hope you are having fun with this!

**MelissaPer:** yes

**JuanS** joined the room.

**MidgeF:** Hi Juan

**HannahN:** yes this is fun

**JuanS:** Hello

**JuanS:** I hope I am not too late

**BJB2:** only 10 minutes left, Juan

**JuanS:** alright, cool

**MidgeF:** Well, we are almost done. I don't want to overwhelm you but give you ideas of things Google can do.

**JuanS:** what were the main points

**MidgeF:** The session in three weeks is about Thanksgiving but I am using Google for that too

**MidgeF:** And in January, I hope to do another Google session with some great ideas

**JuanS:** oh ok, I have to use this for a paper for a class I'm taking

**MidgeF:** But you will need a Google account for those

**JuanS:** Oh ok

**BJB2:** . o O ( perhaps someone can send their transcript to Juan? )

**JuanS:** that would be awesome

**BJB2:** thanks, Midge

**MidgeF:** It will be later on tonight OK Juan

**JuanS:** sounds good

**MidgeF:** OK want a sneak peak at the one in three weeks?

**JuanS:** sure

**MelissaPer:** of course

**MidgeF:** <http://MidgeF.googlepages.com>

**MidgeF:** It's about half done

**MidgeF:** Do we have questions?

**BJB2** hopes everyone will return for Frazel Features on November 13

**HannahN:** Thanks for all the new info!

**MidgeF:** OK, you are released back to your normal life

**MelissaPer:** I agree thanks for great info and a new adventure with google

**BJB2** let's Midge go soak her tired fingers

**MidgeF:** BTW, I am a Mayflower descendant and live near Plymouth

**MidgeF:** Thanks for coming and have a nice Halloween

**BJB2** hugs Midge. Take care.

**JuanS:** bye

**MidgeF:** Thanks BJ for helping tonight. The hugs were appreciated

**BJB2** heads for the K-3 Resources discussion

**MelissaPer:** bye