

Title of Session: Web Tools for Education

Moderator: Pam Berger

Title of File: 20080514webtools

Date: May 14, 2008

Room: Web Tools for Education Group

BJB2: Let's start with introductions. Welcome everyone to this month's Web Tools for Education.

BJB2: please tell Pam where you are located and what you teach

ElizabethC: I'm Elizabeth. I'm in Connecticut, and I teach chemistry to high school girls.

DanaMB: Hi! I'm a middle school librarian in MO

PamB: I'm Pam Berger, a library consultant and terrible typist, as you will see, from NY.

BJB2: I teach communication and am located in Pennsylvania

PamB: I'm also very happy we are virtual, or I would not be here. I broke my ankle on Monday and I'm in a toe to knee cast, unable to walk without crutches.

SusanR: I am substitute teacher from Ontario, Canada and moderator of the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions here at TI

DanaMB: . o O (OUCH)

ElizabethC: Oh, no. You have my sympathies.

SusanR: my sympathies

DanaMB: me too!

PamB: Thank you.

PamB: How many of you have heard of Voicethread?

ElizabethC: I have been hearing a lot about it lately, but I have not yet tried it.

BJB2: heard of it but haven't looked at it

DanaMB: I was just looking at it before you came

SusanR: great tool

PamB : I thought we would look at it tonight and then maybe also have time to share one of your favorites. How does that sound?

ElizabethC: Sounds great!

DanaMB: I'm game

PamB : If you go to <http://www.voicethread.com> and then come back in 10 minutes after you have had a chance to explore a few. Think about how you would use it in the curriculum.

PamB : I'll be here waiting for questions.

PamB : If you can't get there, let me know.

SusanR : Pam, is Voice thread blocked in schools

PamB : It depends on their filters, some are and some aren't. What happens in your school?

SusanR : not sure

SusanR : I will check

PamB : I would doubt the new ed.voicethread.com is blocked. It has safety features to protect students.

SusanR : an amazing tool

PamB : it's very cool. and very useable from elementary to secondary school.

ElizabethC: How easy is it to record a voicethread? Do you need a microphone?

PamB : I have seen it used very effectively in professional development also.

ElizabethC: I mean an external one.

PamB : yes, you need a microphone or if you do not have one a student can type.

ElizabethC: What happens if you type? Do you get a mechanized voice, or is the text visible?

DanaMB: I watched a couple of the video's--

DanaMB: I could see this being used in the history lesson this week,

DanaMB: The students are doing WWI-

PamB : all the MAC have a microphone and most PC have them now. Mine, of course, doesn't I just brought a new cam that has one built in for Webinars and Skype, etc.

PamB : When you type, a bubble appears with the typed words.

DanaMB: I think that I would also use this as a library tour at the beginning of the year

PamB : Dana, do you see the students or teachers using it the most?

DanaMB: students first

PamB : yes, I think so also.

DanaMB: our gifted classes are already showing off some of the things they have learned

PamB : It can be used across all curriculum areas.

DanaMB: I think I could talk a few teachers into trying it..

PamB : Maybe kids will find their voice.

PamB : How do you think we could use it to get kids to collaborate? Any ideas?

AnnTho joined the room.

ShayneTr joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Ann

ElizabethC: I was thinking of a picture of a piece of laboratory equipment. Then everyone could add a comment about how it could be used.

BJB2 waves hi to Shayne

AnnTho: Hello!

ShayneTr smiles

DanaMB: I can see the drama groups putting together their puppet shows.

DanaMB: or How-to videos

PamB : Elizabeth, that's a great idea to get kids to contribute.

PamB : puppets, wow!

ElizabethC: Or perhaps students commenting on a picture of the periodic table, each talking about a particular element.

SusanR : Sorry I have to leave urgently

SusanR left the room (signed off).

PamB smiles

BJB2: we're discussing <http://www.voicethread.com> Ann and Shayne

ShayneTr: thanks

AnnTho: Thx

DanaMB: I can see the foreign language classes look at a picture and commenting in the language they are using

ElizabethC: Great idea, Dana

PamB : Those are really good ideas.

ElizabethC: Maybe I could convince the foreign language teachers there is some use to technology after all.

DanaMB: sometimes they are easier to convince...

PamB : This is a very simple tool so it can be used with some powerful ideas.

PamB : I saw it used very effectively as a digital story tool.

DanaMB . o O (hmmm health and FACs and art)

PamB : I like the fact that they set up a separate education section. It costs money but it makes it very safe for kids.

DanaMB: not free?

AnnTho: what makes it safe?

PamB : one section is free but the ed.voicethread has a fee. I paid \$10.

PamB : Once you create in the ed section kids cannot see other section's voicethreads that

might not be appropriate.

DanaMB: That's not bad

AnnTho: Oh I see (about the safety)

PamB: I agree. All the details are on the site. It's a new feature...maybe three months old.

PamB: Do you have a favorite web tool you would like to share?

ElizabethC: I want to ask about Qlipboard. Has anyone tried it? I'm thinking of using it.

DanaMB: never heard of it

ElizabethC: <http://www.qlipmedia.com/> It seems to be similar to Windows Movie Maker, but online.

PamB: can you tell me about the tool again?

ElizabethC: http://www.qlipmedia.com It seems to be some way to make a short online movie.

PamB: let's all go look at it and come back in a few minutes to talk about it. Okay?

DanaMB: o.k.

ShayneTr: The screen capture feature might be useful for computer class. This looks like a fun application.

ElizabethC: It seems to be similar to Voicethread. Now that I've seen Voicethread, I may like that better.

ShayneTr: I get a good impression from Voicethread. I'm wondering about uploading student artwork and getting them to record an artist statement, then invite others to comment, like a guest book.

PamB: I have never this one, I like it. I need to spend some time comparing it to voicethread.

DanaMB: I need some time to play.

PamB: Voicethread encourages others to comment and collaborate. do you think Quilpmedia does that?

DanaMB: This doesn't look possible...

PamB : It is amazing how many new tools are being developed every day!

ElizabethC: It doesn't look like you can comment on other's work. But perhaps you wouldn't want that for all lessons.

PamB : Yes, they might be used for different purposes.

DanaMB: This looks more like a "how to" or "sharing what you've learned"

PamB : thanks for new tool! Any other favorites you want to share?

DanaMB: or storytelling tool

PamB nods her head

ShayneTr: I've been playing with <http://www.spellingcity.com/>

ShayneTr: (or are we only talking about media programs?)

PamB : tell us about it.

AnnTho : I went to the home page and I already like that they use popular references like Harry Potter and such.

ShayneTr: There's a huge vocabulary bank. A teacher, student, parent can type in words and then have them dictated in a real voice. There are different ways that the student can test himself/herself including games. It seems to work well.

ElizabethC: This is great, Shayne. I just tried it out. If I taught elementary, I would use it all the time.

ElizabethC: Do you think it would know chemistry vocabulary?

ElizabethC: Is there a way to add in your own words?

DanaMB: I can see this with our esl students

PamB : it appears to make spelling fun.

ShayneTr: The site has grown in the last couple of months, since I last discovered it. They are adding to it all the time.

PamB : great find. thanks.

PamB : We might have time for one last suggestion...anybody?

ShayneTr: You can request that they add words.

AnnTho: I'm helping present a site that my friend, Meg, and I developed. It's free and called, www.seedebate.org at 8pm!

AnnTho: in a Social Studies room. Thank you all!

PamB: good luck-- that's great!

PamB: do you have a minute to tell us about it?

AnnTho: Thanks - sure. SEEdebate is an online current events discussion site. Students ranging from grades 5 - 12 participate in engaging online debate/discussion with all the other student users at SEEdebate –

AnnTho: The discussion centers around current events articles that we pull from actual newspaper sites internationally – and with attention to finding diverse perspectives.

AnnTho: We categorize the articles into “forums” by subject area – currently we have all the most common social studies subjects, as well as science, health, technology and media literacy. This makes it easier for teachers to find articles that fit into their curriculum goals for their students

PamB: that's a lot of work!

DanaMB: wow...This would help with the teachers wanting to teach current events next year.

ElizabethC: This looks really useful. I will pass it on to our Social Studies department.

BJB2: o O (please join the Social Studies Forum that will start in a couple minutes...)

AnnTho: We love it! Thank you - we'll be answering q's at 8

PamB: how are you publicizing the site?

BJB2: Ann is a guest speaker for that session

BJB2 heads to the Social Studies Forum

AnnTho: as best we can, right now. We've been to NCSS and NERC Social Studies conferences and made presentations

PamB: Bye everyone. thanks for coming!

AnnTho: Thanks to you!

ElizabethC: Thank you!

BJB2: Thanks, Pam, for leading this discussion...everyone was well engaged!

ShayneTr: Thanks!

DanaMB: thanks