

**Title of Session:** Web Tools for Education

**Moderator:** Pam Berger

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Room: Web Tools for Education Group

**BJB2:** Pam, would you like to start with introductions?

**PamB:** Sure...

**PamB:** I'm a library/educational consultant in NY

**BJB2:** I'm a retired communication and art teacher in Pennsylvania

**BJB2** nudges Katina and Tametrice

**TametriceC:** I am a student teacher in 3rd grade in Houston, TX

**KatinaK:** I am a student teacher in a second grade classroom in Houston Texas

**BJB2:** thanks!

**PamB:** Do you work in the same school?

**BJB2:** Pam, we're here and eager to listen and learn!

**PamB:** or are you in grad school together?

**TametriceC:** No but we were in the same school last semester.

**KatinaK:** What she said!

**PamB:** is that how you learned about Tapped In?

**KatinaK:** Yes

**PamB:** hi Jeff

**TametriceC:** It is required for our online technology class this semester.

**PamB:** I wanted to look at a fun site tonight called Wordle. have you used it?

**KatinaK:** no

**TametriceC:** no

**BJB2:** cool site for the younger set, Pam ;-)

**PamB :** It is based on the concept of tag clouds that are developed from social bookmarking sites and others.

**KatinaK:** ok- sounds great!

**PamB :** but this site creates Word Clouds...

**PamB :** in a simple easy manner.

**TametriceC:** cool

**PamB :** you have two choices to create a Word Cloud...

**PamB :** you can either copy and paste text into Wordle...

**PamB :** or type it in...

**PamB :** it takes the words and creates...a pretty graphic of the words.

**PamB :** the best way is to do it and then we can talk about its uses in education

**PamB :** lets go to <http://www.wordle.net>

**BJB2** checks to make sure Katina and Tametrice got wordle

**PamB :** there will be examples on the page. Create one and then come back.

**KatinaK:** I'm there!

**TametriceC:** me too

**BJB2:** the more frequently a word is entered the larger that word is

**KatinaK:** this is great! I really like it.

**TametriceC:** I think I would have too much fun with this!

**PamB :** You could have students create a wordle to describe themselves or their reading interests. You could also copy and paste text into wordle...like a Dr. Seuss

**KatinaK:** that's a wonderful idea. What a great tool for the classroom!

**PamB** : yea, it is. You can print the wordle and hang them.

**PamB** : instead of doing a book report , kids could create a Wordle of the book...

**PamB** : with major themes, characters, etc.

**PamB** : the larger the words the more important to the story, etc.

**PamB** : can you think of other uses?

**PamB** : BJ , do you use Wordle?

**KatinaK** : describing themselves

**KatinaK** : synonyms/ antonyms of words

**KatinaK** : spelling words

**TametriceC** : when learning rules in mathematics like multiplication?

**PamB** : that would be a nice ice-breaker at the beginning of the year.

**TametriceC** : I like the spelling words idea. you can write the spelling words like concrete poems using wordle.

**KatinaK** : exactly what I was thinking!

**TametriceC** : When the students make a class book, they can use this to create the cover.

**PamB** : when kids write they tend to use "like" and "then" a lot...

**KatinaK** : so they could create a list of other words for the words "like" and "then"

**PamB** : Have them copy and paste their story into wordle and the words LIKE and THEN are very large.

**KatinaK** : ooooh- that's right!

**PamB** : it helps them to realize how many times they used certain words

**KatinaK** : great way for them to view words that they use often

**PamB** : exactly.

**PamB** : I just used it with HS students...

**PamB** : we copied and pasted some sections of Romeo and Juliet...

**PamB** : and the words THY and THOU were LARGE

**PamB** : and Romeo was much larger the Juliet...she didn't get much coverage.

**KatinaK**: really?!? That's interesting

**TametriceC**: that's funny

**PamB** : yes, it was fun.

**PamB** : this same librarian I was working with had the kids compare two speeches before the elections ,one from Obama and the other from McCain...

**TametriceC**: really? how?

**PamB** : both were on immigration and very different words were large...indicating different emphasis.

**KatinaK**: wow- I would love to see something like that

**PamB** : they copy and pasted the first few paragraphs from each

**TametriceC**: Wow that is a great way to increase their higher order of thinking

**KatinaK**: I may try that some time... just to see what it looks like

**PamB** : it's a simple tool but very powerful

**PamB** : you could also enter all the kids names and print out a world with the Teachers' name larger and put it on the classroom door.

**KatinaK**: oh- that's a wonderful idea!!!!

**TametriceC**: So to make sure I understand. All I have to do it type or copy and paste something then the sizes of the words will be chosen by the amount of times they appear...or do I control the size?

**PamB** : no Wordle looks for the frequency of the words and makes the words larger.

**TametriceC**: If I wanted to do the teacher and student idea, I would need to type my name more than once?

**PamB** : You can create one by typing in words and typing some words 3 times or 2 times to make that word larger.

**PamB** : yes!

**PamB** : and you get to choose the color and the design.

**TametriceC**: Oh I really love that. How?

**BJB2**: and the style of text

**PamB** : once you create a wordle there's a tool bar to choose design, text, etc, and then you remix it.

**TametriceC**: I just tried it again. I wrote a few sentences and I typed my name twice. It's pretty cool.

**PamB** : it's a good idea to play with it; you'll get more ideas on using it with students.

**PamB** : I use it as an opening slide in some of my presentations, highlighting the content of the presentation.

**PamB** : a teacher could do the same thing, especially introducing new unit.

**KatinaK**: that would be a great focus for a lesson

**PamB** : BJ, you're an art teacher...I bet you can think of a 1,000 ways to use it.

**PamB** : we could create a Wordle on Tapped In...

**PamB** : how many cool ways does TI help us...

**BJB2**: it would be fun to try using the different fonts and colors

**BJB2**: have kids make lists of descriptive words for a season or whatever and enter all the words they think of

**PamB** : I like the pastel colors...not wild about the black background but the teens I work with do!

**BJB2** . o O ( good for language learning )

**PamB** : great with ESL!

**TametriceC**: I'm not a teen but I love the black background too.

**PamB** laughs

**PamB** : i think it might be hard to print .

**PamB** : but it's powerful

**BJB2**: and hard on your eyes if you look at a lot of black screens all day

**TametriceC**: why?

**BJB2**: why hard to print?

**PamB** : hey, I just thought of another idea...

**TametriceC** laughs

**PamB** : what about making a Valentine, all the thing you love about a person.

**TametriceC**: please share

**BJB2** . o O ( old people tend to stay away from black ;- )

**BJB2**: oh, a lovely idea, Pam!

**PamB** glares at BJ old people!

**BJB2** winks

**KatinaK**: awe- that's a sweet idea. I just may use it!

**PamB** : Okay we have time for one more...

**PamB** : this is fast paced and visual.

**PamB** : Have you used animoto?

**TametriceC**: nope

**KatinaK**: no, I have not!

**PamB** : this is very cool...

**BJB2** would like to learn how to use animoto

**TametriceC** would like to learn too

**BJB2** . o O ( good emoting, Tametrice! )

**KatinaK** me too!

**PamB** : it's involves using 5 to 8 graphics, adding music and then Animoto creates a very cool video for you.

**PamB** : Let's go to the Animoto page and you can see a sample one. Remember...

**KatinaK** . o O ( wow! )

**TametriceC**: Oh I have a friend in China that used this to make an incredible video of her experience so far!

**PamB** : all it is...is a few photos and then you choose music , add text if you want the rest is done for you ...in minutes.

**PamB** : <http://www.animoto.com>

**TametriceC**: Really? I thought she spent forever on that!

**PamB** : I fooled my family, also!

**TametriceC** giggles

**PamB** : go look and come back.

**TametriceC**: k

**PamB** : on the first page there is a section for education, click on that and see examples for education.

**KatinaK**: we're talking about the founding fathers right now in my class (going along with President's Day). a video like this could be really useful!!!

**PamB** : It's very east to create, first you up load your graphics, choose your music.

**KatinaK**: it looks simple and easy to use. This is a great tool that would help integrate technology into the classroom.

**PamB** : I took photos of my family at Thanksgiving, created an animoto later that evening and sent everyone the link. they went wild- they loved it. And they are a hard group to impress.

**PamB** : yes. it's very creative.

**TametriceC**: I love it!

**PamB** : There are so many ways to use it in the curriculum.

**KatinaK** : great for an end-of-the-year video

**KatinaK** : or wrap up of a unit

**PamB** : yes, that would be cool.

**TametriceC** : I love the idea of an end of the year video

**PamB** : kids could create an animoto of a book rather than a boring book report.

**PamB** : or a day in the life of a student.

**KatinaK** : definitely- I was thinking of having each create a video on one of the founding fathers?

**PamB** : you could also add a wordle to the animoto!!

**PamB** : I like that!!

**TametriceC** : that is amazing!

**PamB** : Ben Franklin is my personal favorite...next to John Adams

**KatinaK** : they would go together well.

**PamB** : well I hope this give you some ideas to use web tools with students.

**KatinaK** : everyone is crazy over George Washington- I would have loved to have these tools for when we read the book "George Washington's Breakfast"

**KatinaK** : it is- these are great

**TametriceC** : I need to plan to do something like this for next week!

**PamB** : there is a special on Abraham Lincoln tonight...later in history, of course, but an interesting man.

**TametriceC** : it did help a lot

**PamB** : Good! Thanks for coming.

**KatinaK** : we have been comparing Abe and George!

**PamB** : I'm reading Team of Rivals and it soooo long.



**PamB** : it the biography of Abe by Doris Kearns Goodwin

**KatinaK**: oh, I bet it's great. wish I had time to read for pleasure right now. I miss it!

**PamB** : I think I'll be OLD when I finish it....BJ?

**BJB2** chuckles. Nah!

**PamB** : Well, goodnight!

**BJB2**: Thanks, Pam, for leading this discussion

**BJB2** . o O ( you always have such treasures! )

**PamB** : thanks for coming everyone

**KatinaK**: thank you for letting me join in and giving us some wonderful tools for our classroom- they're absolutely great!

**BJB2**: Pam meets with this group every month, Katina and Tametrice...

**PamB** : your welcome Katina

**BJB2**: check the March calendar for next one

**KatinaK**: will do!

**BJB2** waves goodnight. Sweet dreams, Pam ;-)

**TametriceC**: Thank you so much. I think I am about to make something right now!

**PamB** : you too!

**PamB** hugs BJ

**TametriceC**: Goodnight!