Using Web 2.0 Tools in Education

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Web 2.0 is a term describing changing trends in the use of World Wide Web technology and web design that aims to enhance creativity, information sharing, and especially, collaboration among users.
wikipedia

Web 2.0 refers to the part of the Internet that not only gives information; it allows users to contribute/create information. Web 2.0 allows users to use the Internet in a collaborative manner, to customize the web for their own needs, and to form valuable networks with other users, who share the same interest, expertise and goals.

Why Use Web 2.0 Tools?

1. Powerful organizational tool for visual learners.
2. Encourages higher-order thinking
3. Helps students develop, arrange, and connect ideas.

Web 2.0 Tool	Use	Why?
My.portaportal.com	To bookmark links to your favorite websites online.	- Easy to use - Always accessible to me - Free, but can upgrade ($15/yr) so you can upload files for your students to download and use - Saves huge amounts of time when your computer is reimaged
http://bit.ly/	To shorten long URL's.	- Easy to use, just add your URLs on the main page and click "go" - Eliminates the need for multiple windows or tabs
Wordle.net	To generate word clouds from words that are provided by the user.	- Quick and easy - You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes - Direct impact on student writing
Tagxedo.com	To create word clouds with style.	- You can use any text to create the cloud - Use it to create artwork for a scrap book, poster, etc. - You can turn on and off common words - The site gives a downloadable document on "101 Ways to Use Tagxedo"
Animoto.com	To create a stunning slideshow with music.	- The free version allows you to create a 30 second slideshow. - Quick and Easy!

		• Variety of music to choose from and you can upload your own.
Dropbox.com	To receive/send large files to others.	• Password protected • Works for VERY large files • No need to carry around a jump drive
Babberize.com	To create your own talking pictures.	• Simple and easy to use • Can upload my own pictures and insert a talking mouth • Can record a message • Can upload to the site or create a link • Great fun!
Voki.com	To create your own personalized speaking avatars and use them on your blog, profile, and in email messages.	• Simple and easy to use • Very motivational for students (and adults!) • Awesome "Teacher's Corner" • Lesson plans already available • Concern: Under the age of 13 restriction (account creation)
Edu.glogster.com	To create an interactive visual platform (Poster or Web Page) containing multimedia such as: text, audio, video, images, graphics, drawings and data.	• Very easy to understand, with a "drag and drop" interface • The options are relevant and fun to use for students of all ages and learning styles • Teacher dashboard – keeps student glogs "private" • Sharing feature • Teachers can create projects using templates, assign them to students, provide feedback and assess student work.
Google for Educators google.com/educators/	To find teacher guides to Google products (Web Search, Earth, Book Search, Maps, Video, Docs, Spareadsheets, Blogger, SketchUp, Calendar, Picasa and more).	• Locate basic information about google tools for education • Gives examples of how educators are using the tools • Provides lesson ideas • Users are able to add additional materials
Commoncraft.com	Gives a three-minute video to help educators learn and introduce complex subjects.	• Short and simple • Topics cover anything from Saving for Retirement to Twitter Searches to Preparing an Emergency Kit to Podcasting

Other Important WEB 2.0 Sources:

➤ Classroom 2.0 – www.classroom20.com/
➤ iGoogle
➤ Go2web20 – www.to2web20.net/
➤ Webtools for Teachers - Webtools4teachers.yolasite.com
➤ Solomon, Gwen and Schrum, Lynne (2007) *Web 2.0: New Tools, New Schools*, International Society for Technology in Education: Eugene, OR.
➤ Davidson, Hall *Web 2.0…and You!*, Dis