

81 Web 2 Tools for Engagement, Motivation, Empowerment, and Differentiation

There are new web 2.0 tools appearing every day. Although some of these tools were not originally meant for use in the classroom, they can be extremely effective learning tools for today's technology geared students and their venturesome teachers. Many of these teachers are searching for the latest products and technologies to help them find easier and efficient ways to create productive learning in their students. More and more teachers are using blogs, podcasts and wikis, as another approach to teaching. We have created a list of 100 tools we think will encourage interactivity and engagement, motivate and empower your students, and create differentiation in their learning process.

If you want to see what many teachers and students will be doing in the next couple of years, we suggest you try some of the tools below. It's clear that Web 2.0 has some real educational value that teachers enjoy implementing in their classrooms.

Engagement - -Students using these tools will engage in gaining knowledge of the subjects they are studying instead of being passive listeners.

[Go!Animate](#) Takes story telling using online cartoon strip makers a little bit further by allowing students to spark life into characters and create short animations. A super tool to foster creativity and engage students.

[English Cafe](#) Many teachers recommended this for adult ESOL learners. A fun site for facilitators to explore and contribute too.

[Animoto](#) Teachers and their students can upload pictures and sounds and create professional looking videos which can then be downloaded and shared online. Promote enthusiasm to less exciting tasks such as extended writing and practicing oral pronunciation.

[Box.net](#) You can easily share files using this tool. It is very easy for students to use as well.

[Google Video](#) Allows users to search, upload, and share videos online for free. There is even an educational category providing hour long videos.

[Penzu](#) Keep an online journal using this site. This can be useful for both students and teachers.

[Kinder Site Projects](#) A great resource for Kindergarten teachers. Find educational games, songs & stories made especially for kindergarteners.

[Smilebox](#) Especially good for class blogs, this tool has some nice templates. Classmates can share photos or save them for their own projects.

[MakeBeliefsComix](#) Encourage writing, reading , and storytelling. With this tool, students can create online comics.

[SimplyBox](#) Research can help students learn more about the subjects they're studying. Teachers can help them to think "outside the box" with this tool.

[Hot Potato](#) An easy tool that's free to educators. Build your own crosswords, matching exercises, short answer multiple-choice, and jumbled sentences. Makes homework prep a breeze.

[Tweet Scan](#) More and more teachers have been experimenting with this tool in real time agreement to support vocabulary development.

[Shwup](#) With way cool effects, students can build video slideshows with their photos. They can then be embedded into a blog or downloaded as a MP4 video.

[Diigo Education](#) Any annotations you make on a web page can be saved and sent to students or colleagues. This tool is popular among teachers because it offers the ability to create accounts for a whole class and it protects the students' privacy.

[Jamendo](#) A good way to add some music to a class blog. It can also be helpful to introduce music while working with lyrics in the classroom.

[Bookr](#) Students and teachers can create their own photo book using this fun tool. Search for images, add text, and get it published.

[Chalksite](#) A system built for teachers, students, and parents providing teachers with an easy to use central point where they can communicate with students and parents, post assignments and grades, send messages, and manage a website for their courses.

[Wizlite](#) Allows you to highlight text just like on real paper. Find a page on the Internet and share it with students or classmates.

[Eyespot](#): Neat site where users can actually create video mixes online and share them with others. You can add up to 100 clips or photos to a movie as well as add transition and video effects.

[Tag Galaxy](#) A nice way to search through Flickr images. Just type in your tag and watch as numerous images appear.

Motivation

- These tools will highly motivate students to participate in assignments.

[Voki](#) Allows students to create wacky avatars then record themselves speaking. Some teachers have found it to be a fantastic way to assess speaking in the target language.

[Glogster](#) Students can create multimedia online posters or "glogs which can then be shared on the internet. This tool can be used to assess both writing and speaking.

[Delicious](#) Social bookmarking site where users can save bookmarks and organize them with tags. Add friends to your account and keep track of bookmarks left by each friend.

[Tokbox](#) A fun way to get students talking via video-mail. You can also use it for creating class presentations and you can even talk live.

[Mayomi](#) A free flash-based mind mapping tool that lets you map out ideas, projects, research topics, or anything else that can be dug into. Great for students when it comes to writing essays.

[Mashface](#) Upload a photo of a famous individual, then uses a webcam to add your voice and lips to that person. This could be perfect for getting into the mind of a famous person being studied in history or other subjects.

[Advanced Survey](#) Teachers can create customized subject survey introduction and conclusion pages. Post to your blog and even put the logo on every page.

[Mind 42](#) A free mind map maker with an emphasis on the collaboration. Google instant messenger is built in and if you are a Wikipedia fan there is also an option to attach an article.

[Slidestory](#) This tool allows you to record a narration with your slide show. Post on the web for students or classmates to see.

[Comiclfe](#) A very intuitive comic creator with a free trial and a modest purchase price. It's lots of fun and great for those reluctant writers.

[Ted.com](#) A series of talks by a variety of striking people. The goal is to bring people from the worlds of technology, entertainment, and design together.

[Writeboard](#) A place to create shareable, web-based text documents. Write solo or collaborate with others.

[Vimeo](#) this video-hosting site has a clean interface, includes HD video uploads, and videos can be kept private. A respectful atmosphere lets you & your students' creativity thrive.

[Yugma](#) A free web collaboration device that lets you instantly connect to students and colleagues all over the internet. A way to communicate and share content and ideas using any type of application or software.

[Ning.com](#) This site allows you to create your own social network; consider using this as a private social network with your students.

[Podcasting Tools](#) A well-done overview about the process of making a podcast. Learn from the beginning to the end and everything in between.

[CAST UDL Book Builder](#) This wonderful and free online tool allows you to create your own interactive "books" to help young readers learn reading strategies to build comprehension. Enter your own text, images, and hints.

[VoiceThread](#) Online presentation site that lets you attach audio and video. Other users can leave audio and video comments.

[Citebite](#) Useful for reading comprehension, reading a specific portion of text, or even for highlighting a literary device within a text or poem. Students will no longer waste time, announcing, "I can't find it!" or return to school saying they couldn't do the homework!

Empowerment

- Using these tools will empower you to teach students to take ownership of their own projects.

[Wikispaces](#) Create a public, online wiki for free. This is great for group assignments and class collaborations.

[Twitter](#) We all are pretty familiar with Twitter. Teachers are trying this out more and more with their students to instantly post and receive short messages.

[Bloglines](#) A good aggregator tool for skimming the titles of blog posts from many different blogs.

[Wordia](#) Get video word definitions from here or upload them on your own. Find out how everyday people use the English language.

[ToonDoo](#) A web application that allows students to create their own comic strips. Highly motivational, it allows students to express themselves in a more creative way.

[JayCut](#) This is not just a video-hosting site. You can actually edit your uploaded video and store it online.

[Issuu](#) Lets you upload office or pdf documents and turn them into a collage type album with pages that turn. Students will love this for their special assignments.

[Apture](#) Makes learning and finding information easier since it is in linear form. Your information's deeper meaning occurs with richer context in a shorter time frame. This relevant content remains within your classroom site.

[NetVibes](#) Fairly simple web based aggregator that allows you to collect all of your RSS feed on a single web page. Bring together your favorite media sources with online sources.

[Class Blogmeister](#) This blog site was set up specifically for educators and students. There are a number of privacy controls that are already built-in.

[Wetpaint](#) Another popular wiki-creation site. Students are held accountable by being able to see who changed what, and automatically reverse any changes.

[ArtRage 2](#) You and your students can paint with thinned oils, use wet or dry markers, soften the pencil and control the hardness of the crayon, and much more.

[bubble.us](#) This easy and free online tool allows you to brainstorm ideas, save your mind map as an image, share with students, and create colorful mind map organizers.

[Adobe Connect Now](#) Have a 3 person or site conference with this online conferencing system. You can share files, use a whiteboard, and create audio and video.

[Asterpix](#) Create an interactive video through the use of hyperlinking. Add more information to your video for students to access when they play it back.

[80 Million Tiny Images](#) Visual dictionary of Google images that presents a visualization of nouns in the English language. You can also label the images.

[Carbonmade: Your Online Portfolio](#) One fabulous way for art or photography students to create a free online portfolio to share work in your class, share with other students, or even submit as an online collection for competitions or college admissions.

[Zoho Creator](#) An way to make an online database application that can be used for surveys, inventories, data collection, and much more.

[Calendar Hub](#) Teach organizational skills to your students by using these calendars in class. They will enjoy being able to take responsibility for their own time management by creating their own calendar.

[EtherPad](#) It's easy to use and no password is needed. A shared notepad that lets you store your revisions and synchronize with others.

Differentiation

- These tools allow students to use different learning styles. Students who are visual learners can read information; auditory learners can listen to information on podcasts.

[Gabcast](#) Use this application for podcast creation and hosting sites. You or your students can even use your cell phone to record the podcast.

[Dabbleboard](#) Make whiteboard drawings and graphic organizers in an online space you can share with others. Since more than one computer can work on the whiteboard at a time, students in multiple locations can add to the board at the same time.

[Anki](#) This is what is called a spaced repetition system (SRS). It can help students remember things by intelligently scheduling flashcards. This helps when trying to learn a lot of information at one time.

[edublogs](#) A free blog-hosting site for educators and students of all ages.

[GoogleEarth](#) Satellite imagery, maps, terrain and 3D buildings put the world's geographic information at your fingertips. Students can see the world from a different point of view which makes learning interesting.

[Fleck](#) Put sticky notes and annotations onto existing web pages and share them with others. You can tell students exactly what you want them to do on a page and point out instances.

[Kwout](#) Capture part of a webpage and embed it onto any other site, while keeping links in the image active. Students will love this for individual assignments.

[Fliggo](#) Create your own free video site. Allow only the class or students you wish. Have complete control of the privacy of your site for the use of you and your students.

[FURL](#) A web page storage site that gives teachers and opportunity to save personal favorite sites in an online archive. You can also search, via tags, the archives of others.

[Blogger](#) Said to be one of the best online blog creation sites for classrooms. User friendly and privacy features are now available.

[Wordle](#) Turns any given text into a word cloud then picks out the most common words and give them prominence by increasing their size. Behind this simple concept lies many possibilities for use in the classroom.

[Apple's Podcasting in Education](#) K-12 teachers wanting to know how podcasting will enhance the learning environment should first take a look at this site. The main page gives a quick and easy overview of podcasting in the classroom, and provides the steps for podcasting.

[Befuddlr](#) Add some fun to your pictures by making them into puzzles using this free site. This easy-to-use, free site offers choices of flickr picture groups to choose from.

Many Eyes A take on the power of human visual intelligence to find patterns. Use this tool to create great discussions and debates in your classroom.

Big Universe Now, your students can create their own picture books with just a few clicks. Or if you want, you can read countless other books written by students. They also offer publishing of students' writing.

Funnelbrain Create flashcards for studying in a variety of courses from basic to advanced. Take flashcard one step further by using collaboration, and also choose the next cards based upon correct or incorrect answers.

DarkCopy A text editor for free writing. This is for those teachers and students who enjoys the simplicity of a typewriter, and wants to increase productivity by focusing only on writing.

WiZiQ Virtual classroom application that is fully equipped with 2-way audio, text chat, whiteboard, PowerPoint and PDF document sharing capabilities.

Boostcast A user owned and generated video base that you control. Create and manage your own video site with your own chosen name and customized access and features.

Gliffy Research shows that graphic organizers promote strong thinking skills and comprehension for all age groups. assign groups to create study guides using this collaborative tool.