

Web Building Tools

School Communication Tools

One of the best ways to organize your higher-order thinking lessons and resources is to have them on a class website. Having a class website promotes communication between home and school. It is a way to let parents know what the students are studying, what resources are being used in class, etc.

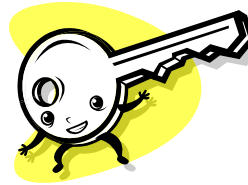
How does a class website promote higher-order learning?

- Teachers can create a place to focus their students' research. Instead of letting them randomly search the Internet for information, teachers can preselect sites beneficial to their particular students and post them on the website.
- Teachers can create online, inquiry-based lessons such as WebQuests and post them on their sites.
- Websites permit collaboration with other classrooms around the world.
- Publishing student work on a website gives them an authentic, world-wide audience.

Tapping the Online Toolbox

NICENET Class Key

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Online Tools That Support
Higher-Order Learning

<http://www.thematzats.com/onlinetoolbox>



TAPPING THE ONLINE TOOLBOX

Searching Tools

One of the most time-consuming activities that teachers encounter when trying to incorporate online resources into the classroom is finding the “good stuff” that has already been created. The searching tools listed on the Toolbox site point you to sites that make the search time more efficient and effective, and focus on sites that stress higher-order thinking skills.

Online bookmark storage

- Use sites like Backflip and ikeepbookmarks to store your favorite website links. Access them anywhere you have a computer with an Internet connection.

Ready-to-Use Lesson Plans

- Blue Web'n, Score, and Bernie Dodge's WebQuest matrix all contain high quality sites that include lesson plans that involve higher-thinking skills and the incorporation of technology into the lessons.

Smart Searching

- Be smart when you search the web. Use the Google advanced search page, Vivisimo, specialized search engines, and eTHEMES to find quality sites on your topic.

Teacher Tools

Quizzes, Puzzles, and Games

- Used in isolation, online quizzes and puzzles may only lend themselves to knowledge level tasks; but include them as part of a WebQuest or online project and they assist in higher-order learning. Have students use these tools to create quizzes and puzzles instead of giving them teacher-created ones to boost thinking skills.
- <http://www.thematzats.com/snakes/process.htm>
- <http://www.thematzats.com/christmasquest/process.html>

Lesson Generators

- Sites like Filamentality allow teachers to create online, higher-order thinking activities like WebQuests.

Scoring Guide Generators

- Tools such as Rubistar aid in the creation of scoring guides. Providing students with a scoring guide lets them know your expectations and encourages them to do their best.

Calendar Creators

- Great for keeping students on track during long-term projects.

Miscellaneous Tools

- Nicenet's online class environment allows global collaboration. Advanced Survey provides a means for real data collection and analysis.

Printables and Reproducibles

- Handy graphic organizers assist in student processing of information.

Just Downright Nifty

- These sites provide additional resources for teachers such as online reading comprehension quizzes, kid-style fonts for publications, and useable maps of all types.

Student Tools

Graphics Generators

- These online tools let students enhance projects and presentations with custom graphics without the need for expensive graphics software.

Communication Arts Tools

- The tools at ReadWriteThink can supplement many higher-order thinking lessons that deal with literacy.

Mathematics Tools

- Online manipulatives and graphing tools support higher order learning in mathematics.

Graphic Organizers

- These online generators allow students to organize their thoughts during data gathering and processing.

Student Presentation Tools

- Project Poster and Mat Mice provide students with a means to communicate globally through the creation of their own websites.

Just for Fun

- Creativity abounds with the use of online movie creators and city builders. The possibilities for higher-order learning are endless.