

Introduction to Using Wikis in the Classroom

Pam Burke, Librarian/Technologist

Marlboro School <http://marlboroschool.net/>

What is a Wiki?

- (It's a web page.)
- You don't need software to edit.
- It's meant to be collaborative.

Why a Wiki?

- Easy! Emphasis on Content, not Design
- No Hassle about Design/Graphics (unless you like that kind of hassle)
- History – Instant Undo
- Free (sometimes)
- Collaborative
- Comment/Discussion Pages
- Addictively Fun
- Super Cool Gadgets on Demand, Free!
(Video, Images, RSS, Javascript & other plugin support)

Our Classroom Experience

My Reasons for Wanting to Use a Wiki with my Students

- Web 2.0 Skills
- Better Understanding of Wikipedia
- Experience Creating Websites
- No Messing About with Silly Wallpaper
- Experience with File Transfer, Markup, etc.
- Web = Wider Audience for Tiny, Rural School

What I Saw Happening in the Classroom

- Working as a Team and Being Part of a Community
- Respecting the Work of Others
- Writing for an Audience
- Owning a Project
- Slowing Down and Being More Careful
- Problem Solving
- Enthusiasm
- Wiki Creep

Tips for Use – My Suggestions

- Create your own first. Just use it as a web page for your class, get to know it well and decide for yourself.
- Have a definite project in mind.
- Will it be public or not?
- Password-protected or not?
- How will you handle simultaneous editing?
- Make practice pages – let them play to learn.
- Establish class rules
 - When and how much should students edit someone else's work?
 - Will the teacher edit student work?
 - How students protect their privacy?
 - What will students link to?
 - Who gets to make new pages?
 - Can students edit just during class time?

Things to Think About Before Making Your Own Wiki

- Do you have flexible scheduling and class time?
- Do you have a good topic, something focused?
 - Do you have any good ideas for multi-media?
 - Do you have fun, enthusiastic students?
 - Do you have a willingness to collaborate with your students and learn from them?
 - Are you a control freak?

A Little About PBWiki

<http://pbwiki.com/>

- Free Hosting
- Free Basic Package
- Easy to use WYSIWYG Editor
- Plugin Support
- Email Notification for Edits