

# Wiki's and Blogs for Educators

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## What are they?

**Wiki:** Derived from the Hawaiian for 'quick,' wikis are used across the Web as collaborative authoring tools. Users focus on creating, adding to and editing text content using Web browsers. Team-based by nature, they are logistically suited for group projects. Wikis allow anyone (or anyone with permission, depending on your choice) to edit and contribute. This allows collaborative work on projects and ways of accumulating collective knowledge. Wikis are meant to portray factual information. Watch this creative [video clip](#) to help understand how they work. Here's a sample [wiki](#). Here's another sample [wiki](#) with a classroom setup.

**Blog:** Web logs or "blogs" are chronologically arranged online journals. They function primarily as a medium for personal publishing. Blogs commonly include personal commentaries and observations, enhanced by relevant links and the opportunity for asynchronous response. Blogs tend to communicate their writers' personalities and points of view. Blogs are meant to portray opinion, as opposed to fact. Here's a sample [blog](#).

## How might we use them?

Wiki's	Blogs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborative student projects</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature logs</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborative class notes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problem of the Day</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Choose your own ending" story</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book studies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital portfolio</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class announcements</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building vocabulary lists</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Critical thinking prompts</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Process writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion forum</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase student participation and engagement</li><li>• Authentic publishing forums for students</li></ul>	

## How can we get started?

Wiki's	Blogs
<a href="#">PBWiki.com</a> - Easy to start, easy to use!	<a href="#">Classblogmeister.com</a> - This blog site is designed for classroom and teacher use.
<a href="#">Wikispaces.com</a> - wikis for everyone!	<a href="#">Blogger.com</a> - Free, comprehensive, and easy-to-use blog site.
<a href="#">Wetpaint.com</a> - "please touch. Free wiki websites where everyone gets a brush."	<a href="#">Wordpress.com</a> - This blog site is a favorite of educators.

## Wonderful References:

1. Wikis and Blogs in the Classroom:  
<http://sidwellssummertraininginstitute.pbwiki.com/Wikis+and+Blogs>
2. Joyce Valenzia on Wikis and Blogs in the Classroom:  
<http://www1.curriculum.edu.au/scis/connections/cnetw06/59wikis.htm>
3. Cool Cat Teacher Blog:  
<http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com/>
4. Classroom Blogs and Wikis:  
<http://www.my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rlid=4992>
5. Pink Flamingo on Blogs and Wikis:  
[http://www.ibritt.com/resources/wp\\_blogs.htm](http://www.ibritt.com/resources/wp_blogs.htm)
6. Tablet Teachers: Wikis and Blogs:  
<http://tabletteachers.wikispaces.com/Wikis+and+Blogs>
7. 100,000 Wikispaces in the Classroom:  
<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K>