**Technology Upgrades for Performance Tasks and Assignments**

Source: *Learning to the Core: Assessing What Matters Most*

by

Jay McTighe

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FROM** | **TO** |
| Book report | Book Hooks – <http://www.bookhooks.com/index.cfm>  Create a Book Trailer – <http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/>  Voicethread (iPAD APP) – <http://voicethread.com/> |
| Brainstorming  on paper | Inspiration – <http://www.inspiration.com/>  Bubbl.us (brainstorming too) – <https://bubbl.us/> |
| Bulletin board | Pinterest – <https://pinterest.com/>  Educlipper – <http://www.educlipper.net>  Padlet – <http://www.padlet.com> |
| Cartoon/Comics | Toondoo – <http://www.toondoo.com/>  Pixton – <http://www.pixton.com/>  Toontastic (iPAD APP) – <http://launchpadtoys.com/toontastic/>  Kerpoof – <http://www.kerpoof.com/>  Strip designer (iPAD APP) – <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/strip-designer/id314780738?mt=8> |
| Exhibit (e.g., artwork or science fair display) | Vocaroo – <http://vocaroo.com/> record voice over and include a QR code on the display to listen  Aurasma – <http://www.aurasma.com/> turns a static image or display board it into a video. |
| Explanation (written, verbal) | Educreations – <http://www.educreations.com/>  Explain Everything (iPAD APP) –  <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8> |
| Filmstrip  Photo Exhibit  Museum display | iMovie – <http://www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/>  Windows Moviemaker – <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/movie-maker#t1=overview>  Animoto – <http://animoto.com/>  Photostory – <http://microsoft-photo-story.en.softonic.com/> |
| How-to guide | Create an App – <https://www.yapp.us/>  JING – Screencasting tool –  <http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html> |
| Oral presentation | Podcast – <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>  [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hrBbczS9](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hrBbczS9)  Audioboo – <http://audioboo.fm/>  Vodcast (video podcast) – <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sdpbc-vodcast/id598313309?ls=1&mt=8>  Voicethread (iPAD APP) – <http://voicethread.com/>  ‎ |
| Pen pal | Skype chat – <http://skype.com> |
| Poster  Infographic | Smore – <https://www.smore.com/app>  Pictochart – <http://piktochart.com/>  Padlet – <http://www.padlet.com>  Glogster –  <http://www.glogster.com/> |
| Multi-media  products | Prezi – <http://prezi.com/>  Animoto – <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/animoto-videos/id459248037?mt=8>  Edmodo – <http://www.edmodo.com>  Slideshare – <http://www.slideshare.net/>  Capzles – <http://www.capzles.com/> |
| Research Report | Website creator – <http://kidswebsitecreator.com/> |
| Science Project | Science report writer –  <http://sciencewriter.cast.org/welcome;jsessionid=64D53C43AD80D6FAB1A0F95ABCFCA054> |
| Summary | Tweet – <https://twitter.com/> |
| Timeline | TimeToast – <http://www.timetoast.com/>  Timeline – <http://xtimeline.com/index.aspx> |
| Vocabulary Notebook | Visual Thesaurus – <http://www.visualthesaurus.com/> |
| Written  products | Issuu – <http://issuu.com/>  Flipsnack – <http://www.flipsnack.com/>  Meograph – <http://www.meograph.com/>  Blog – <http://edublogs.org/>  Blogger – [https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=blogger&ltmpl=start&hl=en&passive=86400&continue=http://www.blogger.com/home#s01](https://accounts.google.com/ServiceLogin?service=blogger&ltmpl=start&hl=en&passive=86400&continue=http://www.blogger.com/home" \l "s01) |
| Summary | Tweet – <https://twitter.com/> |

Career Awareness

At Napa County, we are building a robust college and career readiness system that will enable students to make sound decisions regarding their post-secondary goals.

NCOE launched the first countywide implementation of [Naviance](http://www.naviance.com/) in October 2013. NCOE partnered with local school districts to fund this program for all middle and high school students in Napa County.

Prior to implementation, students had little exposure to career exploration, goal setting, and college planning tools. Students now have access to curriculum designed to help students define and navigate through their post-secondary journey. The curriculum helps guide students through a series of lessons covering topics like financial aid, building self-confidence, and goal setting. Students can also explore potential careers they otherwise would not consider (think Astrobiologist or Zen Master) through [Roadtrip Nation](http://roadtripnation.com/)’s video interview library housing hundreds of real-world examples.

Students have found the curriculum engaging and easy to navigate. Over 8,000 middle and high school students completed activities since implementation in October 2013. By 2015 we expect to be serving over 10,000 students in Napa County.

are **[ThinkCERCA](http://progressinaction.cmail2.com/t/r-l-miitihy-iruukuzdu-jt/" \t "_blank)** – which helps teachers create reading assignments that push their students’ critical thinking skills

digital story telling

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/08/26/digital-storytelling-classrooms-987/>

\*website to support digital story telling

<http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/>

AMT chart (Tom)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OYWKczRIkfl5gBqXcIiqSQrxFnvYW7AaEqbn51kIToA/edit?pli=1#gid=0>

Tom March – I have a “Tools Panel” I’ve created so people and copy/paste it into their own blog or use as a launch pad from their Interactive Whiteboards:

[http://tommarch.com/strategies/skills-checklist/web2panel/](http://tommarch.com/strategies/skills-checklist/web2panel/" \t "_blank)

100 Apps from Microsoft

[**http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/07/03/100-apps-education-673/2/**](http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/07/03/100-apps-education-673/2/)

Tools for Data Analysis

http://www.edutopia.org/blog/helping-students-develop-digital-literacy-suzie-boss

<https://tuvalabs.com/>

Username: syron Class code **bh03j**

<https://www.tuvalabs.com/explore/>

Writing Tools

**[Tomatoi.st](http://tomatoi.st/" \t "_blank)**

The [pomodoro technique](http://pomodorotechnique.com/" \t "_blank) is a popular productivity method. If you are keen to improve your writing process, you can easily adapt this method by using Tomatoi.st. It is a simple web-based tool were you can click the timer to follow the pomodoro technique. The timer will encourage student writers to be productive and organized when writing their papers.

**[Cliché Finder](http://cliche.theinfo.org/" \t "_blank)**

It is difficult to find clichés in your own work, especially when you use it as a personal writing style. But clichés are not highly accepted in writing. To fix your output, let Cliché Finder help you edit these words and improve your work.

**[ProWriting Aid](http://prowritingaid.com/" \t "_blank)**

This is an online editing tool that helps student writers improve their articles. The tool helps edit the grammar, spelling, readability, and consistency of their article. It also checks redundancies, clichés, and abstract words in the content. The tool is highly accurate so it helps a lot in improving the quality of student’s work.

Twitter — Kids Blog

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/school-wide-twitter-chats-stephen-baker>

<http://kidsedchatnz.blogspot.co.nz/>

<http://yr7chat.blogspot.com/>

[Microsoft OneNote](http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote/" \t "_blank): Mac, Windows 7, Windows 8, iPad/iPhone, Windows Phone, Android, Free

The advantage of taking notes with this app is that it allows you to include pictures, videos and weblinks right into your notes. It also stores all your notes in one place for easy access and allows you to move the text around the page.

You can also share your notes and edit them as a group which is a helpful feature for group projects and in class collaboration. It also provides the opportunity for a teacher to share their own notes or presentations so that students can add on their own notes and things they have learned.

Created by 22-year-old Sumner Murphy, Mobento is a video learning platform that curates content from world-class instructors and institutions such as Stanford, Yale, Khan Academy, and TED. The website includes more than 4,200 instructional videos arranged in 26 categories; most are about 10 minutes long. Free apps for iOS and Android devices allow users to search for, download, and watch videos on a mobile device, which works well for students with limited internet access at home. The site’s main innovation is a search tool that lets you search for keywords mentioned in the videos.

<http://www.mobento.com/>

A nice extension for Chrome.  If you are trying to record audio for feedback (especially Formative feedback) Kaizena. Kaizena allows you to comment or RECORD audio feedback.  It is very easy to install - go to the [Chrome Store and get Kaizena](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/kaizena-voice-comments/hcdoaikeblbbiphjibkhliiedjhnbbke/related?hl=en" \t "_blank).  Then relaunch your browser and open a Google Doc.  You can now record simple comments and write comments.  Finally here is the short[Tutorial Video](http://youtu.be/UdowP1fRICw" \t "_blank)

Ipadagogy wheel

[http://mrjexperience.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/ipadagogy-wheel-001.jpg](http://mrjexperience.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/ipadagogy-wheel-001.jpg" \t "_blank)

The [Hemingway App](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/" \t "_blank) provides students and writers a way to critically analyze their writing.  It works by simply writing or copy/pasting into the application page. It provides a Readability Rating, counts words sentences and paragraphs and identifies common errors.  It is a super easy tool to use and helps students improve their own writing.

## Welcome to Writinghouse! The fully automatic bibliography and citation maker. Save time by creating a cited page instantly in the ****MLA****,****APA****,****Chicago****,or****Harvard**** referencing styles! It's easy, fast and ****it's free!****

<http://writinghouse.org/>

<http://www.chronozoom.com/#/t00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000>

ChronoZoom is an educational tool for teachers and students who want to put historical events in perspective. A great many resources have been created already in ChronoZoom

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[Stripgenerator](http://stripgenerator.com/) is a cool online tool for building comic strips.  This is a great way for students to retell, explain or synthesis learning in a creative way.  Simply go to <http://stripgenerator.com/>and register - it is free!  (\*The Activation email might go to your Spam so check there if you don't get it right away)  Once your account is setup begin building.  There are cool characters, voice bubbles, different layouts and an array of layout tools.  when you are done simply print or save to pdf and you have a real comic strip.

**Mind mapping** is a great way to start thinking about a topic, planning projects or simply brainstorm.  [MatterMap](https://www.mattermap.nl/" \t "_blank) is the latest technology in this field.  This is a very robust site.  It provides a place for students to capture quotes, put in citation information and manage findings.  Then it allows users to develop their own Mind Map (MatterMap) about the topic.  Images, Tech, Quotes can all be built around a single idea.  Then this can be printed or shared as needed. It is a great tool for visualizing thinking. https://www.mattermap.nl/

Website Creation: [Weebly](http://www.weebly.com/" \t "_blank)

Websites are a great way for your students to combine creativity with writing, research, and technology. Have them create a website for a historical topic, event, or location, or ask them to create a blog for a famous person. This is also a great way to incorporate primary and secondary sources into instruction.

[http://www.weebly.com/](http://www.weebly.com/" \t "_blank)

## 1. Blogging

This one is simple. [WordPress](https://wordpress.org/" \t "_blank), [Blogger](https://www.blogger.com/features" \t "_blank) and a variety of education-focused blogging platforms help students establish their own digital space to meet the world. It allows the embedding of images, videos, tweets and of course text. To be successful here, they just need a reason to blog.

## 2. Storify or Storehouse

[Storify](https://storify.com/" \t "_blank) and [Storehouse](https://www.storehouse.co/" \t "_blank) essentially allow students to collect media bits and pieces from across the web, and to socialize them -- that is, to shape them into a unique form of expression through social media. The focus here is less on the student articulation of ideas (in contrast to blogging), and more on what they share and why they share it. In other words, the content itself is the star. To be successful here, students need an eye for compelling content, as well as an understanding of the ways that various digital media can work together to tell a story.

## 3. Podcasting or VoiceThread

While [podcasting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcast" \t "_blank) and [VoiceThread](https://voicethread.com/" \t "_blank) have fundamental differences, they boil down to the ability for students to express themselves verbally around an idea important to them. To be successful here, students need to be comfortable talking, and to be able to do so in ways that are interesting to listen to. They also need strong audience awareness -- but then again, when don't they?

## 4. YouTube Channels

[YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/yt/about/" \t "_blank) is the ultimate digital distribution channel -- billions and billions and billions of views. It works, and it's staggeringly efficient, with a world of analytics and an instant global audience for any video that can find traction. Students can create review channels, perform music, humorously remix existing content, act, create documentaries, and a million other possibilities. Success here depends on a student's comfort level in front of a camera (if they're somehow performing), and/or an eye for standing out in front of said billions and billions of competing videos (if they're behind the camera or somehow producing).

To work with YouTube -- and really with any of the above-mentioned media -- students need to have a strong awareness of both legal copyright issues and notions of digital citizenship. As a teacher encouraging them to find their voice, you are in a unique position to teach or reinforce these concepts.

Technology Upgrades

Setting up On-line Study Groups for students

<http://thinkbinder.com/>

Video -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZzzYOQsaUA&feature=colike

<http://langwitches.org/blog/2012/03/31/ipad-apps-and-blooms-taxonomy/>

[http://www.curriculum21.com/clearinghouse/](http://www.curriculum21.com/clearinghouse/" \o "http://www.curriculum21.com/clearinghouse/" \t "_blank)

**September 9th, 2013**

**Creating videos for flipped learning**

By Meris Stansbury, Associate Editor @eSN\_Meris

Vodcasting, otherwise known as video podcasting (vod stands for Video-On-Demand), has been around for a few years, but it’s thanks to the recent interest in flipped learning that educators are taking a closer look into the low-expense creation of education videos.

**What do you need to make a vodcast?**

To begin making your own vodcast, which can be an entire lesson, concept, or explanation of a recent topic, Holden suggests having all software downloaded and beta-tested. This includes screencasting (video screen capture often containing audio narration) software, editing software (optional), and a place to post your vodcasts (or a place to post the video links).

Screencasting software for iPads includes: [Replay Note](http://replaynote.com/" \t "_blank) ($4.99), [Explain Everything](http://www.explaineverything.com/" \t "_blank) ($2.99), [Screenchomp](http://www.techsmith.com/screenchomp.html" \t "_blank) (free), and [ShowMe](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/showme-interactive-whiteboard/id445066279?mt=8" \t "_blank) (free). Holden’s personal favorite is Explain Everything.

Screencasting software for a laptop or desktop includes: [Jing](http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html" \t "_blank) (free), [Snagit](http://www.techsmith.com/snagit.html" \t "_blank) (free), [Screencast-o-matic](http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/" \t "_blank) (free), [Camtasia](http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html" \t "_blank) ($199, but reduced for educators), and [aTube Catcher](http://atube-catcher.dsnetwb.com/video/" \t "_blank) (free). aTube Catcher also [exists for Mac](http://www.wondershare.com/convert-video-audio/atube-catcher-for-mac.html" \t "_blank).

atube Catcher is Holden’s favorite, he said, because it offers different options other than screencasts.

Third- and fourth-grade students at a Massachusetts elementary school are using the free online math program,[SumDog.com](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/fDlXCpyoBppMgLkIaqayvMalcwGq" \t "_blank)

***Apps to call on students randomly*** – This *Educational Leadership* item suggests three apps to cold-call students:

-   Pick Me! [www.classeapps.com/pick-me](http://www.classeapps.com/pick-me) generates student names and keeps track of who’s called on.

-   Class Cards [http://classcardsapp.com](http://classcardsapp.com/) lets the teacher quickly rate the quality of a student’s response and can put the student on hold until he or she is ready to respond.

-   ClassDojo [www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com/) lets the teacher establish several desired behaviors – for example, participating in classroom discussions, working effectively with teams, or persisting with challenging work – and give students instant feedback. Students can create avatars and monitor their progress.

Bloom’s Taxonomy apps

[http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2013/09/blooms-taxonomy-apps-great-resource.html?goback=.gde\_2811\_member\_271893813#](http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2013/09/blooms-taxonomy-apps-great-resource.html?goback=.gde_2811_member_271893813)!

# 6 Free Online Resources for Primary Source Documents

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

This post by [MONICA BURNS](http://www.edutopia.org/user/195582) originally appeared in Edutopia's [TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION](http://www.edutopia.org/blogs/beat/technology-integration)  
blog.

Christopher Bell’s website – good tech resources here

<https://sites.google.com/a/isb.ac.th/technology-coaching-through-the-implementation-of-a-learning-management-system/home/technology-tips-tricks>

[](http://life.time.com/history/)

[Image credit: life.time.com](http://life.time.com/history/" \t "_blank)

The Common Core Learning Standards describe the importance of teaching students how to comprehend informational text. They are asked to read closely, make inferences, cite evidence, analyze arguments and interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text. Primary source documents are artifacts created by individuals during a particular period in history. This could be a letter, speech, photograph or journal entry. If you're looking to integrate social studies into your literacy block, try out one of these resources for primary source documents.

## 1. National Archives

The [National Archives](http://www.archives.gov/education/research/primary-sources.html" \t "_blank) is a fantastic resource. Their website is easy to navigate and includes lots of teacher resources. They feature a daily historical document relating to an event from that day in history. The online catalog can be searched using keywords, and 100 "milestone" documents are identified as significant to American history.

## Library of Congress

Historical Thinking: [The Library of Congress](http://www.loc.gov/index.html" \t "_blank)

My favorite thing to do is find some resource on the LOC website, project it, and get students (or teachers) to start discussing the item and asking questions. The LOC has everything from maps and photographs to letters, paintings, and audio files. Let your students explore the resource, and then you can ask inquiry-type questions to foster the discussion.

[http://www.loc.gov/index.html](http://www.loc.gov/index.html" \t "_blank)

## 2. DocsTeach

Also run by the National Archives, [DocsTeach](http://docsteach.org/documents" \t "_blank) is full of activities for educators. The documents are organized by different periods in American history. If you're teaching "Civil War and Reconstruction" or "Revolution and the New Nation," just click on the topic to find hundreds of primary source documents. DocsTeach provides audio, video, charts, graphs, maps and more.

## 3. Spartacus Educational

[Spartacus Educational](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/" \t "_blank) is a great resource for global history. It contains free encyclopedia entries that directly connect to primary source documents, making it a perfect tool for educators looking to give students a starting point in their research. It can even be used for a historical figure scavenger hunt!

## 4. Fordham University

[Fordham University](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbookfull.asp" \t "_blank) is another good resource for global history. Similar to how DocsTeach organizes primary sources into periods of American history, this site categorizes documents as well. From the "Reformation" to "Post-World War II Religious Thought," teachers can find full texts available from Fordham or similar institutions. These sources are appropriate for the middle school and high school classroom.

## 5. The Avalon Project

Broken down by time period then listed in alphabetical order, the [Avalon Project](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/" \t "_blank)at Yale University also has primary sources for global history teachers. This database starts with ancient and medieval documents and moves into present times. In addition to categories that address specific historical periods, the Avalon Project includes links to human rights documents as part of [Project Diana](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/diana.asp" \t "_blank).

## 6. Life Magazine Photo Archive

Google and Life Magazine have a wonderful search engine that lets users search millions of images from the [Life Magazine Photo Archive](http://images.google.com/hosted/life" \t "_blank). Not only can you type in key terms to guide your searches, you can also look through images organized by decade (1860s through 1970s) or significant people, places, events or sports topics.

## Easy iPad Access

Using iPads in your classroom? Check out these free apps for primary source documents:

* [National Archives DocsTeach](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/national-archives-docsteach/id513465174?mt=8" \t "_blank): access to documents and activities available on their website
* [Today's Document](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/todays-document/id412969819?mt=8" \t "_blank): quick look and searchable database of documents connected to a specific date in history
* [Quotable Americans](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/civic-quotes/id492726858?mt=8" \t "_blank): important quotes in American history with supporting images
* [Manifest Destiny](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/manifest-destiny/id485413652?mt=8" \t "_blank): information on Westward Expansion connected to John Gast's famous painting
* [Building Titanic](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/building-titanic/id511457230?mt=8" \t "_blank): National Geographic's app includes images and diagrams of this famous ocean liner

Where do you go to find primary source documents to use in your classroom?

* [MONICA BURNS'S BLOG](http://www.edutopia.org/user/195582)

14 Science Experiments on YOUTUBE <http://www.stumbleupon.com/su/1tcdHi>

STEM RESOURCES

**Elementary school**

**S** [The Lawrence Hall of Science](http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/kidsite/" \t "_blank): Students play games and have interactive, engaging experiences as they learn about all manner of science topics

**T** [EduBlogs](http://edublogs.org/" \t "_blank): Secure blogging to help young students organize their thoughts and learn how to interact online

**E** [eGFI](http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/" \t "_blank), from the American Society for Engineering Education, offers lesson plans, class activities, and outreach programs for students of all ages, including K-5 students.

**M** Developed by a teacher, [Math Cats](http://www.mathcats.com/" \t "_blank) is designed around open-ended and creative math exploration.

**Middle school**

**S** Through a free basic membership, students can use [BioDigital Human](https://www.biodigitalhuman.com/" \t "_blank) to learn and virtually explore the human body.

**T** [Scratch](http://scratch.mit.edu/" \t "_blank): This programming resource is designed for children ages 8-16, and is perfect for middle school students who want to learn more about programming

**E** [Central Texas Discover Engineering](http://www.centexeweek.org/activities-experiments/middle-school-activities" \t "_blank): While this resource is Texas-based, the middle school engineering activities are engaging and encouraging.

**M** [Math Central](http://mathcentral.uregina.ca/index.php" \t "_blank): This safe site is maintained by teachers, faculty, and students at various Canadian universities. Students can ask questions, try out challenging math problems, and more.

**High school**

**S** [Coaster Crafter](https://s.ncta.com/CoasterCrafter/" \t "_blank): Building roller coasters is one way to learn about physics, and this resource helps students learn about force and motion while testing their constructions.

**T** [Prezi](http://prezi.com/" \t "_blank): High school students can learn how to create and give presentations on their own or with peers, learning valuable skills for college and the workforce

**E** [Engineer Your Life](http://www.engineeryourlife.org/" \t "_blank) is an engineering guide for high school girls.

**M** [The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives](http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/grade_g_4.html" \t "_blank) is a library of interactive web-based virtual manipulatives and concept tutorials. The tools help engage students and prompt them to visualize mathematical relationships in unique ways.

Luhtala reviewed 50 apps that can help teachers and librarians organize materials, locate information and resources, and more. Her entire presentation is available [here](http://home.edweb.net/theres-app-b-side-50-productivity-apps-will-prepare-mobile-edu-volution/" \t "_blank), and resources found in that presentation are available [here](http://bit.ly/edwebet49" \t "_blank) (free registration is required in both cases).

Twenty-two apps are included below, and you can locate the rest via the two links above.

**Utilities**

[Airdrop](http://support.apple.com/kb/ht5887" \t "_blank): Users receive a notification that someone wants to share something, they accept, and the resource is shared wirelessly.

[Airplay](https://www.apple.com/airplay/" \t "_blank): A neat AirPlay function is mirroring, in which users can take what they do on their phone and display it on a computer. If you add that with a screencasting tool, Luhtala said, you have fabulous tutorials that you’ve made on your phone.

**Numbers**

Google Sheets ([iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/app/id842849113" \t "_blank) and [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.docs.editors.sheets&hl=en%20https://itunes.apple.com/app/id842849113" \t "_blank)): Create, edit, and collaborate with others on spreadsheets from your device with the free Google Sheets app.

[OneReceipt](https://www.onereceipt.com/" \t "_blank): Store receipts in the cloud, automatically pull in eReceipts, organize spending, and scan receipts to enter electronically. A useful tool for teachers to keep track of school spending, and a nice way for students to learn about budgeting.

**Information management**

Feedly ([iOS](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.devhd.feedly&hl=en" \t "_blank) and [Android](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/feedly-blogs-news-magazine/id396069556?mt=8" \t "_blank)): Feedly is an RSS news reader re-imagined for mobile devices. It makes browsing faster and more fun: the content of your rss feeds, news sites and blogs are transformed into pocket-sized cards which load very fast and are easy to browse.

[Flipboard](https://flipboard.com/" \t "_blank): It’s a single place to discover, collect and share the news you care about. Add your favorite social networks, publications and blogs to stay connected to the topics and people closest to you.

[News360](http://news360.com/" \t "_blank): News360 is an app that learns what you enjoy and finds stories you’ll like around the web.

[Pocket](https://getpocket.com/" \t "_blank): This app helps people save interesting articles, videos and more from the web for later enjoyment. Once saved to Pocket, the list of content is visible on any device–phone, tablet or computer. It can be viewed while waiting in line, on the couch, during commutes or travel–even offline.

[Pearltrees](http://www.pearltrees.com" \t "_blank): Pearltrees is a place for your interests. This free app lets you organize, explore and share everything you like. Add web pages, files, photos or notes and organize them naturally. Explore amazing collections that relate to your interests and subscribe to their updates. Access your account anytime and share anything from your computer, mobile and tablet.

[LastPass](https://lastpass.com/" \t "_blank): LastPass is a password management app that saves your passwords and gives you secure access to them from every computer and mobile device. With LastPass, you only remember one password–your LastPass master password. LastPass will fill your logins for you and sync your passwords everywhere you need them.

**Geography**

Google Maps ([iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/google-maps/id585027354?mt=8" \t "_blank) and [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.maps&hl=en" \t "_blank)): The Google Maps app for iPhone and iPad makes navigating your world faster and easier. Find the best spots in town and the information you need to get there.

[Museum Finder](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/museums-mosques-synagogues/id330710663?mt=8" \t "_blank): This app quickly identifies your location and lets you choose the nearest museum. When you select a listing, you can see the museum’s location on the map, the address, telephone number, and the distance from where you are. You can also call the museum directly by tapping on the phone icon on your iPhone.

[World Explorer Gold](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/world-explorer-gold-audio/id415463916?mt=8" \t "_blank): With more than 350,000 locations, it’s like having a professional tour guide always by your side. Using the speaker or headphones, listen to explanations about locations and resources. The app also has augmented reality features.

[LibAnywhere](http://www.libanywhere.com/" \t "_blank): The library catalog is now available for your mobile phone! Search, discover, and interact with participating libraries–anywhere you are, right away.

[History Pin](http://www.historypin.com/app" \t "_blank): The Historypin app reveals photos near your current location and allows you to view them layered over the modern scene in front of you. You can also explore Collections of some of the best old photos from around the world, wherever you are.

[What Was There](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whatwasthere/id421576457?mt=8" \t "_blank): This app will detect where you are and show you any historic photographs that were captured nearby, plotted on a map. Switch into Camera view for an augmented reality experience of the history that surrounds you. If you’re at a location where a historic photo was taken, enlarge the photo to full screen mode to use your camera and the on screen fader to transition between past and present.

FieldTrip ([iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/field-trip/id567841460?mt=8" \t "_blank) and [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nianticproject.scout&hl=en" \t "_blank)): Field Trip can help you learn about everything from local history to the latest and best places to shop, eat, and have fun. You select the local feeds you like and the information pops up on your phone automatically, as you walk next to those places. Field Trip runs in the background on your phone. When you get close to something interesting, it will notify you and if you have a headset or Bluetooth connected, it can even read the info to you.

**Images**

[iStopMotion Remote Camera](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/istopmotion-remote-camera/id484024876?mt=8" \t "_blank): iStopMotion Remote Camera allows the use of the camera as a remote camera for iStopMotion running on an iPad (2 or newer, incl. iPad mini) or iStopMotion 3 on a Mac. The remote camera is connected via a WiFi connection.

[iTimeLapse Pro](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itimelapse-pro-time-lapse-videos/id335866860?mt=8" \t "_blank): Create stunning time lapse and stop motion videos straight from any iphone, iPod, or iPad 2.

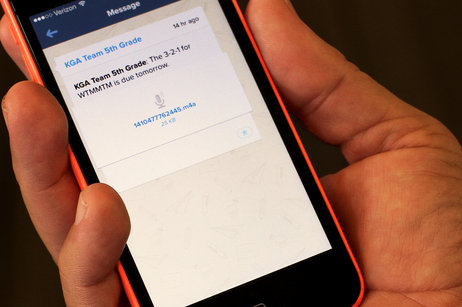
[Strip Designer](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/strip-designer/id314780738?mt=8" \t "_blank): Use this app to create your own personal comic strips, created on your iPad, iPhone or iPod, using photos from your photo album or iPhone camera.

[Fuse](http://www.techsmith.com/fuse.html" \t "_blank): Get photos and videos from your mobile device to your favorite TechSmith desktop products. Import an existing photo or video, or capture something new using the app’s built-in camera. Then, send your video to TechSmith Relay, or use the editing power in Snagit and Camtasia to create custom, shareable content.

[Twister](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/twister-best-photo-video-360/id668495813?mt=8" \t "_blank): Take photographs, enhanced videos and panoramas in a snap. Watch your iPhone rotate automatically when you put it on a flat surface.

ED WEBS APP SITE <http://www.pearltrees.com/mluhtala/edwebet49-apps-b-side/id11726005>

As the new school year gets underway, NPR checked in with school technologists and teachers to see what digital tools they're using.

[i](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/09/16/347377022/a-is-for-apps-teachers-share-top-digital-tools-of-the-trade)

The Remind app enables teachers to send notes to a class en masse. Here, Michael Buist, a fifth-grade teacher in Chandler, Ariz., notifies parents and students about a reading assignment via a voice message.

Elissa Nadworny/NPR

**Remind**

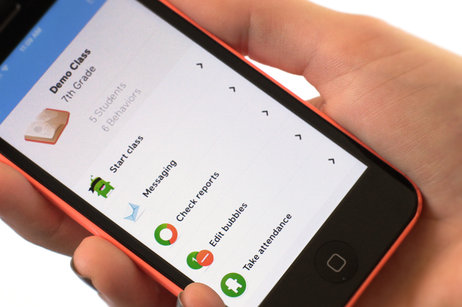
One of the most popular mobile apps we heard about was [Remind](https://www.remind.com/" \t "_blank). Think of it as a combo of sticky note and class newsletter for the digital age: Remind allows teachers to send messages — via email, cellphone, iPad or Android device — to an entire class with the push of a button.

Teachers are using it to notify parents and students about homework, highlight upcoming school events or let parents know what's going on in class.

An estimated 18 million people have downloaded Remind, the company says, with 200,000 to 300,000 new users coming on board per day. In states like Texas and Mississippi, the company says, 1 out of 4 teachers uses Remind.

Remind has recently added a voice messaging function, which Michael Buist, a fifth-grade teacher at Knox Gifted Academy in Chandler, Ariz., loves. His class is currently reading Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin. To tell the class and their parents about the next reading assignment, Buist recorded one student, 10-year-old Robert Turner, reading a paragraph.

"We're so happy with all this technology," says Sarah Turner, Robert's mother. "Robert has dysgraphia, a handwriting disability, so doing things with technology has really helped him."

[i](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/09/16/347377022/a-is-for-apps-teachers-share-top-digital-tools-of-the-trade)

ClassDojo lets teachers note students' positive and negative behaviors during class — with a point system as well as nice and not-so-nice sounds.

Elissa Nadworny/NPR

**ClassDojo**

[ClassDojo](https://www.classdojo.com/" \t "_blank) might be described as a way to help students find their classroom mojo. The app lets teachers recognize both positive and negative behavior in real time during class.

Good behavior — like working hard, helping others, asking a good question — earns points and a high-pitched game-show chime for all to hear. Poor behavior — like disrupting class, being off task or wasting time — results in a loss of points and a sad, out-of-tune bass sound. The kids choose fun avatars — a purple bear with yellow lips and horn, a one-eyed furry gray creature — and parents who sign up for notifications receive updates on how their children are doing.

ClassDojo works on cellphones and tablets, as well as outdated Web browsers like Internet Explorer 8. And that's by design.

"We want teachers to be able to use ClassDojo regardless of how much money their school or district has," says Manoj Lamba, ClassDojo's marketing lead. The company estimates that at least one teacher at one-third of all U.S. schools uses the app.

Libby Gronquist credits ClassDojo for getting her through her first years of teaching eighth-grade social studies at KIPP Liberation College Prep in Houston.

She connected ClassDojo to the class speakers so everyone could hear the app's sounds — good and bad.

"It made all my students hyperaware of their behavior," says Gronquist. "They all wanted that positive sound to be theirs."

Since the app debuted three years ago, it's developed new features that enable messaging and photo-sharing between parents and teachers.

Brenda Johnson was introduced to ClassDojo last year when her son Austin, 10, was a third-grader at Penngrove Elementary School in Rohnert Park, Calif. She says the app gave her a better understanding of what was happening in the classroom and helped spark conversation at home.

"Austin needed it. He'd come home from school and want to know how he did," says Johnson. "If he hadn't done well we could talk about it, so it became a conversation about his behavior."

[i](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/09/16/347377022/a-is-for-apps-teachers-share-top-digital-tools-of-the-trade)

Teachers are using QR scanners like i-nigma in a variety of ways, including showcasing students' work online.

Elissa Nadworny/NPR

**QR Code Readers**

Teachers are also trying to break the QR code — that's "quick response" code, a kind of digital bar code.

Among them is Ed Campos, a math and tech teacher at Visalia Charter Independent Study high school in Visalia, Calif. He recently emailed parents requesting they download QR code readers in preparation for the school's upcoming open house.

To show off his students' digital work, Campos plans to leave QR codes throughout the classroom so parents can scan them with their smartphones to access online portfolios.

Campos, a self-declared tech fanatic, incorporates technology into the majority of his assignments. Student work includes Google presentations and video testimonials; they will also use a website — [QRStuff](http://www.qrstuff.com/" \t "_blank) — to create QR codes that lead their parents to their online work.

"We're using QR codes to link the physical to the digital," Campos says. He recommends [i-nigma](http://www.i-nigma.com/downloadi-nigmareader.html" \t "_blank) as his QR code scanner of choice.

[i](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/09/16/347377022/a-is-for-apps-teachers-share-top-digital-tools-of-the-trade)

Students tweet about historical events they've learned in teacher Nicholas Ferroni's Union High School history class in New Jersey. Twitter handles have been blurred to protect students' privacy.

Elissa Nadworny/NPR

**Twitter**

Other teachers are employing the mobile apps their students are already using to [reinforce classroom lessons and encourage kids to continue their discussions](http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/09/the-case-for-having-class-discussions-on-twitter/379777/) online.

Students of Nicholas Ferroni, a history teacher at Union High School in Union, N.J., send tweets sprinkled with emoji that describe historical events like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 or the British Stamp Act of 1765.

He's also embracing his students' digital lives in other ways, such as asking them to create memes using photos related to what they're studying in class. For example, a student paired a picture of a typewriter with the line: "Macintosh ... I am your father!" The students can then share the images on their own social media platforms.

Ferroni also uses everyday apps such as Vine, Facebook and Instagram, and recommends [Poptok](http://poptokapp.com/" \t "_blank), a game structured like Candy Crush that teaches 1 of 11 languages.

[i](http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/09/16/347377022/a-is-for-apps-teachers-share-top-digital-tools-of-the-trade)

Teachers are using Socrative, a polling app, not only to quiz their students about what they're learning, but also to learn more about the students themselves.

Elissa Nadworny/NPR

**Socrative**

As its name suggests, [Socrative](http://www.socrative.com/" \t "_blank) relies on questions: In its simplest form, Socrative is a polling app. Teachers set up questions — multiple choice, short answer or true/false. Students use their version of the app to receive questions and submit answers.

"Socrative is a very easy, simple way to get a feel for your classroom," says Chris McEnroe, an English teacher at Tabor Academy in Marion, Mass.

McEnroe uses the app — which is also free and multiplatform — to find out everything from what students' favorite flavor of ice cream is, to their thoughts on a character in an assigned reading.

The app tracks and records the answers, and can generate reports based on the results. When shared, McEnroe says, the results connect students with similar views.

His biggest teaching challenge, he says, is trying to get an emotional reaction from his students. He finds he gets those introspective answers when students can respond to questions through their smartphones.

"Reaching students on their phones, a space where they are alone and it's personal, is a way to do it that the students don't find threatening," he says.

The answers also help inform how McEnroe interacts with students and designs future class discussions.

"In addition to opening communication, digital tools create data for teachers to make teaching decisions that suit the individuals in front of them," McEnroe says.

The information is particularly helpful for students who seem reserved or disinterested. These types of digital tools, McEnroe says, "have completely changed my approach to students."