50 Ways to Weave Your Wiki

At the University of British Columbia,

- The Faculty links wikis into its course management system so that design teams can quickly and collaboratively build reference lists and outlines, brainstorm instructional strategies, and capture suggestions.
- The Career Services unit uses wiki pages to store and organize content for a major new job posting and career development Web site that it is developing.
- An academic research unit on campus used a wiki for planning a conference—to collect supporting resources and to gather contributions from invited participants. They used the wiki during the conference, live, with laptops and wireless access, to record group work.

All subjects

- Provide a space for free writing
- Debate course topics, including assigned readings
- Share resources such as annotated bibliographies, websites, effective writing samples, conferences, calls for manuscripts
- Maintain a journal of work performed on group projects
- Require students to collaborate on documents, such as an essay written by the entire class
- Discuss curricular and instructional innovations
- Encourage students to revise Wikipedia pages or take on new wikipedia assignments
- Inspire students to write a Wikibook
- Support service learning projects (i.e. use wikis to build a website about a challenge in their city)

Wikis as an In-Class Communications Tool

- Antony Hodgson, an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, uses wikis in his fourth year biomechanics course. The wikis act as an informal bulletin board for course announcements and allow students to communicate with one another.

Promote Book Discussions

- University class posts novel discussion prompts. Students submit their chapter discussion and respond to one other student's submission.
- http://writ-2510.hss.rpi.edu

Wiki as a web site

http://library.usca.edu

These ideas are borrowed from http://www.teachersfirst.com

Math

- Applied math wiki: students write about and illustrate places where they actually used math to solve a problem.
- Procedures wiki: groups explain the steps to a mathematical procedure, such as factoring a polynomial or converting a decimal to a fraction. (See http://calcap.pbwiki.com/ for an example)

Science

- A student made glossary of scientific terms with illustrations and definitions added by the class (using original digital photos or those from other online Creative Commons sources, such as Flickr).
- A taxonomy of living things with information about each branch as you study Biology over a full year.
- Observations from field sites, such as water-testing in local streams, weather observations from across your state, or bird counts during migratory season. Collaborate with other schools.

History-Social Science

- A mock-debate between candidates, in wiki form (composed entirely based on research students have done on the candidate positions).
- A collaborative project with students in another location or all over the world: A day in the life of an American/Japanese/French/Brazilian/Mexican family.
- A virtual tour of your school
- A travel brochure wiki: use wikis to "advertise" for different literary, historical, or cultural locations and time periods: Dickens' London, fourteenth century in Italy in Verona and Mantua (Romeo and Juliet),

Language Arts

- Literary analysis of actual text on the wiki- with links to explanations of literary devices, a glossary to explain vocabulary, etc.
- A continuing story in which your class adds sentence using new vocabulary words and writes and adventure story in collaboration with the entire class.

Other Subjects

- A virtual art gallery with ongoing criticism and responses regarding artwork. found online or originals from your art classroom
- A catalog of musical styles or musical instruments.
- Collections of recipes for a home ec class.
- A collaborative project with speakers of a foreign language and in another location: A day in the life of an American/Japanese/French/German/Mexican family. (This one would require finding contacts in other locations, of course).
- A movie review wiki

The ideas below were found at the TeachingHacks.com web site.

- Use for student projects where group members need to contribute at different times and from geographically diverse locations.
- Use for collaborating on ideas and organizing documents and resources from individuals and groups of students.
- Use as a presentation tool where those who attend a workshop can contribute to future versions of the workshop.
- As a group research project for a specific idea.
- Manage school and classroom documents.
- Use as a collaborative handout for students.
- Writing: student created books and journaling. (i.e. Wikibooks)
- Create and maintain a classroom FAQ
- As a classroom discussion and debate area.
- A place to aggregate web resources.
- Choose a topic on Wikipedia, break the topic into facts, students verify the facts using their information literacy skills, and make changes accordingly (Citing sources).
- Create a mathematics wiki with standards information and videos that demonstrate how to solve problems. Note: this site uses the free CamStudio to capture and publish screen videos.
    - http://math247.jot.com/WikiHome
- Science (any subject): Create a wiki where students report about what they learned in a particular unit. Students each create a new page answering the question, 'I learned that." Students link vocabulary words in their answers to the word's Wikipedia entry.
- Create a school club or team wiki, with photos, schedules, videos, and advice
    - http://dvtrack.pbwiki.com/
- Classroom Wiki – Use a wiki to create a classroom web site
    - http://westwood.wikispaces.com/
- Keep meeting notes- use a wiki to record and publish meeting minutes, post agendas, and provide links to relevant materials.
- Post presentation notes and links
    - Will Richardson's Presentation Wiki: http://webloggedlinks.pbwiki.com/
    - David Warlick's Presentation Wiki: http://davidwarlick.com/wiki/
- A wiki "fan club" for your favorite author

50 + 5: From Cool Cat – http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com

Lesson Summaries
Students post "their lesson" to the wiki. This includes vocabulary but also concepts that are part of the lesson. This is a collaborative effort after the initial information is posted. What results is a great compendium of information about a topic that students can access from home when it is time to study.

Collaboration of Notes
Students collaborate to take class notes. Many colleges are seeing this happen spontaneously on college campuses as students strive to make collective sense out of large amounts of material. As the students edit, work and re-edit, they are learning.

Concept Introduction and Exploratory Projects
Any time there is a topic that I do not know a lot about, we explore the topic together and create information on the wiki.

Dissemination of Important Classroom Information beyond the Classroom

Individual assessment projects