

Title of Session: A K12 Teacher Wiki

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: A K12 Teacher Wiki Group

BJB2: I'm not sure that Michael is going to log in...my emails to him have all bounced

DanaMB: that's interesting

BJB2: but I can sort of guide you to some resources

StefanieS: Ok, sounds great.

ElizabethC: That would be great. I want to do a Wiki with my class, but I don't know too much about it.

DanaMB: I'm interested

StefanieS: I have no idea what a Wiki is.

BJB2: a wiki is a collaborative website....members of the wiki can edit, add pages, and collaborate on page creation

ElizabethC: The best part for me is that I can tell which of my students are contributing to the group project.

StefanieS: hmm, interesting

BJB2: <http://www.helpingstudents.org/JSPWiki/Wiki.jsp?page=Wikis>

ElizabethC: But there are so many sites out there, I don't know which is best to choose.

BJB2 nods to Elizabeth.

DanaMB: It seems like there are new ones all the time

BJB2: Michael's wiki is pretty much under your control...

BJB2: you can approve who can add and who can edit

DanaMB: So it's safe with the students?

ElizabethC: How easy is it to edit?

BJB2: pretty easy. There is an editing wizard

DanaMB: Can you see what goes on the wiki before it is added to it?

DanaMB: For example

BJB2: under featured items is a link to Practice editing in Sandbox

DanaMB: a student can send me part of a story for kids to edit

DanaMB: and you can watch comments before they go on the wiki?

BJB2: that I'm not sure about, Dana

ElizabethC: Are there ads on the site?

BJB2: no ads

DanaMB: That will help get this approved at my school.

ElizabethC: That's good. I've seen some where I just didn't want my kids to be there.

BJB2: and you can restore pages if someone changed something you don't want

StefanieS: I am going to learn more about wikis before I join this chat, ladies.

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2 waves to Jeff

StefanieS left the room (signed off).

JeffC waves

ElizabethC: HI Jeff.

BJB2: Jeff, do you remember if teachers can check posts before they are entered?

JeffC: Hi Elizabeth

JeffC: not sure... on the wiki you mean? I don't know if there's a preview button or not.

DanaMB: Hi Jeff

JeffC: Hi Dana

ElizabethC: Does it automatically tell you who edited what?

JeffC: yes... if you have it set up that someone has to login to edit... it will be in the history.

ElizabethC: That's what I thought. One of my colleagues is doing a wiki with her class, though, and she said they had to enter their name when they did something.

ElizabethC: Or she could not tell who had done it.

ElizabethC: She's using a different site, though.

JeffC: my biggest question is for Michael... what happens when two or more are editing simultaneously? this is particularly likely to happen if you bring a class into a computer lab to work on a project.

ElizabethC: Good question.

JeffC: I think most wiki sites allow anonymous editing if the wiki creator wants it... or login required (obviously best for schools).

ElizabethC: So the trick is to be careful how you set it up?

JeffC: well... like anything... yeah.

BJB2: and be sure that you have a purpose for the wiki

ElizabethC: We're going to do one on global warming.

BJB2: a hot topic!

BJB2 . o O (pun intended)

DanaMB: I was hoping to set up a wiki for my after school writing club.

ElizabethC smiles

DanaMB: Let students talk about characters, plots etc.

DanaMB: then others could ask questions or make comments on the writing

DanaMB: Would it be better to use another tool?

ElizabethC: That sounds more like a blog or a discussion board, I think.

ElizabethC: A wiki would be better if you wanted the students to each write an "article" about a character, for example.

ElizabethC: At least, that's how I understand wikis.

DanaMB: what if they would work on a collaborative story?

BJB2: the students can edit an article written by another student in a wiki

BJB2: they can only comment on the article in a blog

ElizabethC: Yes, I think that would work. I was also thinking of Google docs for a collaborative work like that.

DanaMB nods

BJB2: that might be a good tool for that, Elizabeth

DanaMB: maybe the wiki can then be used for putting the newspaper

ElizabethC: I think that is the kind of project that's perfect for a newspaper.

JeffC: well... they could chat about ideas *here*... and simultaneously post into Discussion... then copy/paste into either a wiki or google doc.

ElizabethC: True. I've got my students chatting here right now.

DanaMB: Are you holding a class at this time

ElizabethC: Yes, but I figured they could get along without me while I found out about wikis.

DanaMB: You know we didn't get to do the intros

DanaMB: what do you teach Elizabeth

ElizabethC: I teach chemistry in Connecticut.

DanaMB: I'm a middle school librarian in Missouri

ElizabethC: I wonder if you could have the students in your school make a wiki for the library, recommending resources, and such.

BJB2 . o O (book reviews)

DanaMB: That would be a great idea

ElizabethC: I'd better go and see how my students are doing. Thanks for the link and the information!

ElizabethC waves bye.

JeffC: I have to go and give a tour for Florence now.

JeffC: send me a private chat Elizabeth if you need help.

BJB2 nods to Jeff

ElizabethC: Thanks, Jeff.

ElizabethC left the room.

BJB2: only thing I can suggest re this wiki is to look at the resources under featured items, Dana

DanaMB: I think that I will play around with the sandbox and see what happens

JeffC left the room.

DanaMB: I'll talk with you later

DanaMB: Thanks for your help

BJB2 nods. Try emailing Michael Misovec...maybe you'll have better luck than I

BJB2 waves goodnight