

Exploring Wikis in Action

Often, the most challenging task for teachers interested in starting classroom wiki projects is imagining what's possible. Without a clear vision of how wikis can be used to facilitate the work that they are doing with students, teachers can end up struggling to structure a successful wiki experiences. Use this handout to evaluate several examples of student wiki projects and to collect ideas about the kind of projects that you'd like to pursue.

Wiki to Explore: Carbon Fighters

<http://carbonfighters.pbworks.com>

This wiki was designed by a middle grades language arts teacher to give student groups the opportunity to write shared problem-solution essays on the issue of global warming. The final product for this project was an open letter to the Governor of North Carolina arguing in favor of a range of alternative energy sources.

Criteria	Your Rating			Your Notes and Reflections
Accurate Content <i>Quality wikis include accurate content and conclusions. Errors in thinking are few and far between.</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Above Average</i>	
Deep Linking <i>Quality wikis include extensive links to reliable outside sources that serve to document student thinking and to validate student conclusions.</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Above Average</i>	
Evidence of Group Revision <i>Quality wikis are shared efforts that include evidence of extensive contributions by all members.</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Above Average</i>	
Quality of Presentation <i>Quality wikis include evidence of age appropriate grammar and visual presentation.</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Above Average</i>	

Wiki to Explore: Horizon Project 2008

<http://horizonproject2008.wikispaces.com/>

One of the best known student wiki efforts, the Horizon Project 2008 paired 13 classrooms of high school students from six different countries in a collaborative effort to explore the major technology trends in college education in the next 1-5 years.

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Wiki to Explore: The Monster Project

<http://monsterproject.wikispaces.com/Welcome>

A yearly effort to use wikis to pair students with one another, the Monster Project asks children in elementary school classes to draw digital images of monsters, craft written description of their monsters, and ask peers in other classrooms around the country to recreate the same monster without any visual cues.

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