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What the Wiki is going on?

Wikis and their use in Education

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What's a wiki?

- A wiki is a web site that lets any visitor become a participant: you can create or edit the actual site contents without any special technical knowledge or tools.
 - All you need is a computer with an Internet connection.
- A wiki is continuously “under revision.”
 - It is a living collaboration whose purpose is the sharing of the creative process and product by many.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY>

What's a wiki?

- One famous example is Wiki-pedia, an online encyclopedia with no “authors” but millions of contributors and editors.
- The word “wiki” comes from Hawaiian language, meaning “quick” or “fast.”



Who uses wikis?

- College and university courses seem to be using wikis far more than the K-12 community right now.
- In K-12 education, wikis are being used by educators to conduct or follow-up after professional development workshops or as a communication tool with parents.
- The greatest potential, however, lies in student participation in the ongoing creation and evolution of the wiki.

What is the difference between a wiki and a blog?

- A blog, or web log, shares writing and multimedia content in the form of “posts” (starting point entries) and “comments” (responses to the posts).
- While commenting, and even posting, are open to the members of the blog or the general public, no one is able to change a comment or post made by another. The usual format is post-comment-comment-comment, and so on. For this reason, blogs are often the vehicle of choice to express individual opinions.
- A wiki has a far more open structure and allows others to change what one person has written. This openness may trump individual opinion with group consensus.

Wiki ideas appropriate for most subjects

- Study guides made by student groups for themselves and peers: each group prepares the guide for one aspect of the unit or responsibility rotates: one unit guide per semester.
- Vocabulary lists or glossaries and examples of the words in use, contributed by students.
- The wiki as the organizational and intellectual epicenter of your class - Wiki all assignments, projects, collaboration, rubrics, etc.

Wiki Decisions

- How do you envision using the wiki?
- Who will be able to see the wiki? (the public? members only?)
- Who will be able to edit the wiki? (the public? members only? vary by section?)
- Who will be able to join the wiki? (students only? invited guests? the public?)

Wiki Decisions

- What parts of the wiki will you “protect” (lock from changes)?
- Who will moderate the wiki for appropriateness, etc?
- Who will have the ability to reset changes?
- Will you, as the teacher, be notified of all changes?
- Will the wiki have Individual or global memberships? (by individual students if you want an individual record of who made changes, or with one log-in per group or class?)

Let's create a Wiki!!!