

Blended & Online Learning Tools (7)

Blended and Online Learning Tools

The common assumption is that to be successful, online learning must involve the use of complicated or multiple modes of technology. While there is a range of external technology tools that are great to motivate student learning, an educational tool should be used for a specific purpose. So, when deciding to use a certain tool, ask yourself this: will it help my students learn and does it help to achieve my desirable outcome? Student ability to use technology can also vary, so be prepared to support students in using external technology and perhaps start your course with a low-stakes online assignment to get students acclimated.

TIP Be cautious about where student information is stored and be sure to provide a low-tech alternative option, if a student can't use a certain tool or is reluctant to sign-up for a tool that requires a separate account. Be sure to include in your syllabus (or on FOL) policies governing the use of external tools in your course and the minimum technical requirements needed to be successful.

Below is a curated list of some of the most popular tools for learning, but new tools emerge all the time.

CATEGORY	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
Animation	Goanimate	Animated videos
Animation	Powtoon	Animated videos
Blog	WordPress	Blog, create your own website
Blogs	Edublog	Blog, create your own website
Communication	Edmodo	Social media for education
Communication	Google Hangouts	Messaging, video calls, and voice calls
Communication	Remind	Text messaging notices/reminders
Communication	Padlet	Online notice board creator.
Content	Merlot.org	Teacher resources, and content
Content Generation	storify	Create stories by curating social media
e-portfolio	mahara	e-portfolio
Feedback	Survey monkey	Online survey tool
Feedback/Polling	socrative	Feedback and polling using smartphones
Games	Kahoot!	Online Games
Images	wordle	Word cloud creator
Images	Voki	Avatar creation
Literature Search	Google Scholar	Search tool for scholarly literature
Organization	pocket	Saves pages from computer or phone that can be read offline
Organization	del.icio.us	Social bookmarking
Organization	Feedly	Customized news feed

Technology with Purpose

KEY CONCEPT

“Essentially, blended learning is a highly targeted and engaging learning experience. It's a purposeful look at the curricula, the needs of students and teachers, and subsequently, what learning modality or support can best help a student meet unique learning goals...The purposeful use of technology, paired with effective teacher-led instruction and student interaction, is what makes learning blended.”

*Source: Smith (2014)

Technology Tools Continued

CATEGORY	TOOL	DESCRIPTION
Presentation	Voice Thread	Conversations in the cloud. Good for interactive group presentations.
Quiz	nearpod	Interactive content presentation, quiz, and report synchronously or make available.
Quiz	Quizlet	Flashcards, quizzes, study, and games.
Quiz/Form	Google Forms	Quizzing, permission forms, feedback
Reference Manager	Mendeley	Free reference manager and academic social network. Add on to Word that creates proper citing.
Search	InstaGrok	Interactive content map
Search	WolframAlpha	A database that provides systematized knowledge in an accessible way.
Social media	Twitter	Free social networking, micro blogging.
Social media	TweetDeck	Popular social media management tool to manage social web presence.
Social media	Hootcourse	social media for education
Sound Editing	Audacity	A free sound editor
Storytelling	Microsoft Sway	Storytelling, information sharing
Video creation	Adobe Spark	Free online and mobile graphic design app to create images, videos, and web pages that help tell stories.
Video creation	Microsoft Office Mix	Screen capture and presentation creator
Video creation	Screencast-o-matic	Free screen capture video tool
Video creation	Camstudio	Open source screen capture video tool
Video creation	Explain everything	Explain Everything is an interactive whiteboard and screen casting app
Video Engagement	Edpuzzle	This tool allows you to trim videos It also allows you to add interactive questions and see the user's responses.
Videos/training	Khan academy	Open courses
Videos/training	EdX	Open courses
Videos/training	Ted-Ed	Open source lessons
Wiki	Google Docs	Free collaborative office suite
Wiki	wikispaces	Educational wiki

Additional Resources

- [Seneca College's Tech Tools list](#)
- [The Emerging EdTech's Free Education Technology Resources eBook](#) (2015)
- [16 of the Best Blended Learning Resources](#) from Edudemic
- [Tools and Trends](#) from Teach.ca