



USING THE WEB IN THE CLASSROOM

Things to Consider

Now that you have attended NTTI and are ready to burst with all of the ideas you have gotten, slow down and let's think about how to set up your room to best use the Internet. Here are a few things to consider:

How Can I Display the Internet?

- Computer connected to a TV through an aver key (a converting device)
- Computer connected to a projector
- Computer connected to a projector to a SmartBoard for interactive websites
- Stand-alone computer as a learning center
- Multiple computers in the room as research/activity stations
- Computer lab

Hardware

There are many times we as teachers do not even know what the availability of equipment is in the building. Ask if there is a technology committee, leader, or principal that is in charge of keeping track of equipment. Once you have found what is available, ask about the checkout system and who the troubleshooters are in the school. If you know of a piece of technology that you would like to have but is not available, talk to the technology leaders in the school about purchasing procedures.

What Is Best for Classroom Management?

- Location of computers
- Accessibility
- Assigning responsibilities when working in groups
- Getting kids to be the "driver" and "technician"
- Organization of websites

The next two sections will elaborate on these.

Classroom Design & Management

Regardless of using the web or any software, be aware of what your students are doing. The computer's monitor needs to be facing where you can easily look up from a reading group or science lab and check to see where the students are with their activity. Sometimes the placement in the room is left up to the maintenance department and not the teacher, but if you have a choice, place computers in an area where there is plenty of room around the computer to allow for group work.

Accessibility is important when thinking of technology. Where are you going to place the laptop/projector so all children can see and participate in the lesson? If you have **one computer**, think of ways that you can use that to create another learning opportunity for your students. You can connect it to the Internet and projector and have whole class instruction. It can be used as a research station. Have students use the one computer as a center for extended learning activities or remediation.

If the students are **working in groups**, be sure to assign each member of the group a task. Have **task cards** available for the children with the same directions that you gave to the whole class about expectations of their work on the computer. That card can be written for each activity or posted on a website. In order to manage your one computer, have a student assigned to answer any simple troubleshooting problems. Also pick a **"student driver"** when whole class instruction is being conducted. The students will be more vested in the activity if they can participate.

How Can I More Efficiently Use All of That Information?

Webquests

Organizing your websites –

- Bookmarking
- Caching
- portaportal trackstar/class webpage
- Burn websites to CD and put with unit in file

In order to organize and prepare for using the Internet in a lesson, be sure to preview and bookmark all of the sites that will be used with your students. Sites like portaportal (<http://www.portaportal.com>) or trackstar (<http://trackstar.4teachers.org>) are great for posting the sites you wish your students to visit and thereby limit the frustration of the eternal search. Also you can be a bit more protected from students getting into an inappropriate site.

What Is There to See?

- Streaming Video
- Images
- Lesson Plans
- Interactive Games
- Research
- Communicating with an expert
- Virtual Field Trips to museums or foreign lands
- Communicate with other students/teachers via email
- Current Events
- Online Projects
- Tools to be a better teacher
- Virtual Staff Development
- Class webpage

Back-up Plan

You have a great lesson planned to do on the Internet. Over the weekend there was a storm and it hit the server. Now the Internet is down. Is your lesson ruined or did you plan ahead?

Using the Internet can be an incredible experience for you and your students. Keep in mind these time saving tips to help keep your students on track as they surf the World Wide Web!

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Note: Technology is always changing and terms change along with them. For additional definitions see <http://www.webopedia.com> and/or <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MainPage>.