



# Instructional Technology Center

## 10 Free Collaboration Tools for Teaching and Learning

### Mindmapping/ Organizing Thoughts

| Name/ URL   | Advantages  | Disadvantages/ Using with students under 13   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Bubbl.us</b><br><a href="https://bubbl.us/">https://bubbl.us/</a>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a map without logging in</li> <li>• View in presentation mode without logging in</li> <li>• Download as an image without logging in</li> <li>• Colorful</li> <li>• In free version, can have up to 3 free maps that are saved to an account if you create one</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To save or share map, you must log in</li> <li>• To collaborate real time from different computers, you would need the premium account- \$4.91 per month- educators receive 50% off this price</li> </ul> <p>No privacy policy for students under 13- however you only need to give an email address and password to sign up for the free version. Not even your name is needed.</p> |
| <b>Padlet</b><br><a href="https://padlet.com/">https://padlet.com/</a><br><a href="https://padlet.com/features">https://padlet.com/features</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add sticky notes to a board</li> <li>• Invite users with a shareable link</li> <li>• Creator can edit or delete posts, and allow for others to have editing rights as well</li> <li>• Only the creator needs an account- others can add content without an account</li> <li>• Choose themes</li> <li>• Choose to make the padlet public or private</li> <li>• <b>Organize the way the notes are displayed on the wall</b></li> <li>• Schools can purchase accounts and manage student users</li> <li>• Can choose settings like only certain students can access the wall, can edit or moderate, or needs moderator approval before posting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can create a Padlet Backpack which is meant for schools to use. Not sure the cost is worth it.</li> <li>• Site can be a little slow to load</li> </ul> <p>Since a teacher could create the padlet and give out a link for others to collaborate, students don't need to create an account to work within a Padlet. If students create their own, they should be over 13.</p>     |



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| <p><b>Popplet</b></p> <p><a href="http://popplet.com/">http://popplet.com/</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can be used on an iPad or the web</li><li>• The Popplet app allows you to create multiple Popplet boards</li><li>• Popplet Lite for the iPad is free</li><li>• The full version allows you to create online Popplets that can be shared and edited by other Popplet users</li><li>• Can export via email PDF, JPEG, or save as a JPEG</li><li>• Didn't need to create an account to use Popplet Lite on iPad</li><li>• Make public or private</li><li>• Embed or share link through email, facebook, or twitter</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Popplet app \$4.99</li><li>• Popplet Lite only allows to create one Popplet board at a time</li><li>• Web version may need flash player</li><li>• Can only invite other popplet users as collaborators</li><li>• When you share via a link, the other user can't add to the board</li></ul> <p>Students under 13 do not need an account if they use the trial version and make a quick popplet. For accounts, the students would need parental permission.</p> |
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## Writing

| Name/ URL   | Advantages  | Disadvantages/ Using with students under 13  |
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| <p><b>Wikispaces Classroom</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.wikispaces.com/content/classroom">http://www.wikispaces.com/content/classroom</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows multiple students to enter and edit text</li> <li>• Monitor student contributions- view revisions</li> <li>• Create multiple wiki pages</li> <li>• Create projects</li> <li>• Settings are easy to use and allow for some customization</li> <li>• Can set the licensing through digital commons standards so this is a good way to discuss copyright with students</li> <li>• Can add students in bulk through the settings or generate a join code for students</li> <li>• Can add files to the pages</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.wikispaces.com/content/classroom/about">http://www.wikispaces.com/content/classroom/about</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company from the UK- does not follow the same COPPA laws as in the US however they do list what US teachers need to do in order to follow COPPA laws.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.tes.com/us/terms-and-conditions">https://www.tes.com/us/terms-and-conditions</a></p> <p>Teachers need to secure permission form parents before allowing students to access wikispaces if they are under 13.</p>  |
| <p><b>Kid Blog</b></p> <p><a href="https://kidblog.org/home/">https://kidblog.org/home/</a></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and easy way for students to blog</li> <li>• Easy enough for Kindergarteners to use but sophisticated enough for high schoolers to use</li> <li>• Builds a digital portfolio over time</li> <li>• Can be used for multiple subjects, not just English</li> <li>• Can modify privacy settings</li> <li>• Administrators can use Kid Blog as well and comment on student's work</li> <li>• Can connect with other schools worldwide</li> <li>• One single invoice covers all teachers</li> <li>• Can pay by PO, credit card, or check</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not provide a quote for Admin Pro. Must email <a href="mailto:membership@kidblog.org">membership@kidblog.org</a> to get a quote.</li> <li>• There is no iOS app for Kidblog</li> <li>• Annual fee for Teacher Premium is \$44</li> </ul> <p>Teachers need to secure permission form parents before allowing students to access KidBlog if they are under 13.</p> <p>Teachers need to supervise students and use for educational purposes.</p> |



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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can design membership term to align with academic calendar</li> <li>• Supports all devices and operating systems</li> <li>• Made and designed by teachers</li> <li>• Does provide a 30 day trial</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p><b>EDU Blogs</b></p> <p><a href="https://edublogs.org/">https://edublogs.org/</a></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edublogs is a free site for students and teachers to create blogs</li> <li>• Can store up to 1 GB of data in the free version</li> <li>• Directions on how to set up a class edublog- <a href="https://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/bloggng-with-students/">https://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/bloggng-with-students/</a></li> <li>• They have their own bloggers who help you think of ideas to use this in your classroom</li> <li>• Create a student network to allow all students in your class to participate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro or Campus Press versions cost more</li> <li>• Campus Press made for school districts</li> <li>• Students will need email accounts to be able to use this in the classroom</li> </ul> <p>Teachers need to secure permission form parents before allowing students to access KidBlog if they are under 13. Teachers need to supervise students and use for educational purposes.</p> |
| <p><b>Now Comment</b></p> <p><a href="https://nowcomment.com/">https://nowcomment.com/</a></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on text, images, and video</li> <li>• Can set up with 2 panes, or choose inline comments</li> <li>• Need to add collaborators by using an email address</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panes are a little hard to follow at first.</li> </ul> <p>There is nothing posted on this site about students under the age of 13 and the protection of their information. This would be a site where parental permission should be sought before using.</p>   |
| <p><b>Classtools.net</b></p> <p><b>SMS Instant Messaging Simulator</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.classtools.net/SMS/">http://www.classtools.net/SMS/</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this tool for students to have a conversation with each other that is like texting</li> <li>• Students don't need an account to use this tool</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For an extra fee, you can subscribe to classtools.net and have access to materials without advertisements.</li> <li>• Students can take a screen shot of their work for assessment purposes</li> <li>• May have problems with Flash</li> </ul> <p>Since students do not need to have an account, this can be used with students under 13.</p>  |



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## Drawing/Whiteboard/ Presentations

| Name/ URL   | Advantages   | Disadvantages/ Using with Students Under 13   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>AWW app</b><br><a href="https://awwapp.com/">https://awwapp.com/</a>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create, download, and share boards without creating account</li> <li>• Invite people to edit the board and chat with them on the program without having an account.</li> <li>• only need to log in for premium use, free 30 day trial for premium</li> <li>• Can expand the whiteboard so that others can add to it in a blank space</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few color and font options</li> <li>• Cannot move typed text around once it is written</li> <li>• Premium costs 7- 10 dollars per month</li> </ul> <p>Since students do not need to have an account, this can be used with students under 13.</p>  |
| <b>Twiddla</b><br><a href="https://www.twiddla.com/">https://www.twiddla.com/</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free for up to 10 users for a 20 minute session</li> <li>• Invite others via email</li> <li>• Take a snapshot to save your work</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only have 20 minutes to use it in the free version</li> <li>• Can upgrade and pay for more features</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.twiddla.com/Pricing.aspx">https://www.twiddla.com/Pricing.aspx</a></li> <li>• May have problems with Flash</li> </ul> <p>Since students do not need to have an account, this can be used with students under 13.</p> |