

Web 2.0 Tools

Tagul

Everyone has heard of Wordle to make word clouds, but I personally like Tagul and Tagxedo better. They are both free, and easy for students to use.



Tagul allowed all of my students to be signed in as me at the same time! We all created word clouds separately, but at the same time. This was great for a whole class lesson on the characteristics of republicans and democrats.

Students also created a whole class web page using over-used character traits to create word clouds with synonyms! Check it out: <http://bit.ly/RnpOSb>

Creately

Creately is one of those really cool websites that allows you to do so many things! I got it for my classroom because it allowed us to collaborate on graphic organizers, but it really can do so much more!

First of all, it is great for working as a team to complete or create a graphic organizer. We have done this for persuasive organizers prior to writing our persuasive essay for our Energy Debates. We have worked on concept maps together, and we have made Polygon Venn Diagrams using the actual polygon shapes instead of the typical overlapping circles!

I have also discovered that it is great for making slides for slideshow presentations because there are very few limits. I have also used it to create signs or posters that I post on my website!

There are so many possibilities with creately.com, so I encourage you all to check it out and see what you can do with it!

ClassBadges

This is a relatively new website out there. It helps me motivate students to accomplish tasks that would otherwise be tedious for them. As tasks are completed according to directions, students earn badges as a reward. It is almost like giving them a sticker or a certificate, but it is techie and novel.

Badges are being created daily, but you can also suggest new ones for their artists! I had them create a few for my needs, and the turnaround was only 24 hours!

I have been using it to get my students to improve their reflections on their blog entries (since we started the year with pretty weak reflections). I also made sure that I gave my students more specific directions, to try to ensure better success on each assignment. This acted like a rubric or checklist for students. In order to earn a badge, they needed to do all of the requirements! Check some out here: <http://bit.ly/SQdqLP>

