

"Tips for Teaching with the Web"

1. Recognize the value the Internet can bring to the teaching/learning experience.

- Students improve learning efficiency.
- Teachers improve teaching strategies.
- Students become partners in the learning process.
- Teachers become chief learners.
- Students become producers of knowledge.
- Students/teachers will have virtually limitless resources.
- Students can move toward self-directed learning.
- Teachers can develop lessons and collaborate with other teachers more easily.
- Teachers can combine Internet activity with other computer applications.

2. Choose the appropriate time to use the Internet.

- Is the information needed time sensitive?
- Are various types of media needed?
- Is it more interesting on the Internet?
- Does the Internet provide first-hand information not available elsewhere?
- Is the Internet more convenient?
- Does it address the multiple intelligences and various learning styles?

3. Use the Internet with appropriate guidance.

- Anticipate problems.
- Plan each lesson.
- Provide guides to appropriate Web sites.
- Provide guidance on narrowing topics.
- Teach basic types of searches before actual searches (browse, hypertext, analytical).
- Focus on using information found on the Web rather than searching for the information.
- Support learners' use of information and higher-level thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

4. Apply the Internet resources to the learning/teaching experience.

- Use WebQuests, an inquiry-based activity using most (if not all) of the necessary information from the Web.
- Brainstorm questions/problems to be solved.
- Use Internet for remediation and challenge.
- Use Internet information for specific outcomes.
- Use email to link students to other students and to experts.
- Combine efforts into joint projects/group efforts.
- Focus on real-life applications of information (i.e., geography = historic sites).
- Cite sources of information.
- Evaluate/critique authenticity of information.

Sources:

- *Journal of Staff Development*, Fall 1998
- "How to Guide Students Through the Banquet on the Web" by Bob Vojtek and Rosie O'Brien Vojtek
- "Internet in the Classroom: Five Questions Discussed" by Neal Topp, University of Nebraska at Omaha <http://ois.unomaha.edu>
- "The Internet and the Elementary Classroom Teacher" from Western Hills AEA 12, January 1999