

## Why Web 2.0 in the Classroom?

Web 2.0 is a valuable teaching tool for several reasons:

1. Collaboration—the widespread availability of the Internet allows students to work together, even from remote locations.
2. Motivation—students can and will be very motivated to create online products. A potentially worldwide audience is a big motivator to create quality products.
3. Meaningful—products reflect “real” society and the latest technological skills.
4. Communication—web-based student products, RSS/XML, blogs, etc. all facilitate communication between schools and parents/communities.
5. Availability—being Internet-based, students and teachers can access Web 2.0 tools from school, home, libraries, or anywhere Internet access is available, effectively expanding the school day.
6. Creativity—students move beyond acting as knowledge consumers to become information experts and creators.

## Web 2.0 Tools for the Classroom

### *Blogs*

Blogs provide an easy way for teachers and students to get started in Web 2.0. Several good sites exist for creating educational blogs. These sites provide important features such as teacher controls, privacy options, and filters. Some good sites for student/teacher blogs include:

- [Landmarks Class Blogmeister](http://classblogmeister.com). (<http://classblogmeister.com>)
- [Kidblog](http://kidblog.org/) (<http://kidblog.org/>)
- [Edublogs](http://edublogs.org). (<http://edublogs.org>)
- [Posterous](http://posterous.com/) (<http://posterous.com/>)
- [Gaggle](http://www.gaggle.net). (<http://www.gaggle.net>)
- [Blogger](https://www.blogger.com). (<https://www.blogger.com>)
- [Twitter](http://twitter.com/home). (<http://twitter.com/home>) (okay, it's not really blogging, but it's close!)

Student blogs can be powerful writing tools. Students can create online pieces that may be reviewed and critiqued by peers. Students can also use blogs as effective learning logs, recording new information and reflecting/expanding on previous learning. Students and teachers can use blogs to post thoughtful discussion topics and receive input from a wide audience. Teachers and administrators can also use blogs as tools to communicate class/school news, policies, and events.