

Reflection: Creating a Wiki using Google Sites in an educational setting

Joe Tompkins

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As part of this module, I created an online wiki site using Google sites. The result can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/uwgamedt7462/activity-one>.

This is an odd assignment for me to reflect on, because I have been making websites for a very long time with a wide variety of tools. I do understand that Google is working to "streamline" the process for people that have never created a website before, but to me the Google interface ended up hindering the process in places.

Again, I have a completely different background from most users who would be using this tool. Personally, I'm used to a wide array of tools to customize a site in exactly the ways I visualize. Google's "plug-and-play" interface is probably much better for students and teachers (I just found it frustrating to me personally).

I did appreciate the choices of themes and site templates. Students (and, let's admit it... teachers, too) love to choose their colors and themes... and Google certainly gives them those options. Also, the complete lack of html coding and web designing makes the process an easy one to recommend to students and teachers who want to create an online space for a class project or anything else. Also, as with all Google tools we've reviewed so far, I have to admit that they have once again made a big contribution to the Web 2.0 community by providing this tool (and hosting service) for no cost to the user. This is really "web hosting for the masses".

If the intent of a class was to provide the students with a real experience in web site creation and design, then this tool would not be the tool of choice. If the intent was to quickly create an online place for sharing and publishing... then Google Sites is a great place to start.