

Learning Unit 3 - Wiki Experience - Team 1
by Connie Capaldo

Url of your project: <http://lewithin.wikispaces.com/>

Other team members:

Baird, Colleen
Bloom, Charles
Brinkman, Nicholas
Charles, Joshua

The purpose of your wiki:

The purpose of our Wiki is to provide a compilation of online educational resources along with descriptions in various subject areas for teachers.

The extent of your role in creating and revising the wiki:

I initiated contact with the other team members via the group discussion board and MU e-mails in an attempt to establish communication between our team members. We began discussion on the group discussion forum then moved to the Wiki discussion board after Josh created the Wiki. Josh and I shared the role of organizer.

I was responsible for posting the Language Arts links. I also posted some links on the General Resource page, Art page, Music page, and Health page.

Your perceptions of using this method for collaborative work. How well did it work?

I think a Wiki is a great tool for collaborative work. It is user friendly and convenient. It simplifies communicating with a group. I think it worked well. We were able to accomplish our group's goal even though we are spread out all over the U.S.

How easy was the environment you chose to use?

The Wiki environment is very easy to use in my opinion. This is my second wiki experience. I was able to learn how to create and edit by just playing with it for a bit. I am working on teaching my students to edit and work with our class wiki. It is a bit time consuming to teach young children but I think they will get it after a little one-on-one time with me.

At least one specific idea for using a wiki with students.

I would like to use a Wiki as a book club with students. We could all read the same book and use the Wiki as a discussion board and as a place to post information about the author, illustrator, student reviews, etc. It would be really wonderful to be able to invite the author to join the wiki and have him/her participate in discussion with the students. I think I would also like to do a modified "book club" where students read different books, write reviews and make recommendations. You could even use a program like Voice Thread for them to record their reviews orally and link it to your Wiki. In all truth, I think the possibilities are endless.

I would also like to coordinate a grade level wiki that would enable all four fifth grade classes to work on a collaborative project. I think the possibilities for working on collaborative projects with other schools is a priceless opportunity and I hope to be able to encourage the regular teachers at our school to give it a try. For my particular students, I would love to create a wiki in collaboration with the Alabama School for the Deaf so that my Deaf students could work with other Deaf students on a project. Deaf students are sometimes very isolated in public schools because there are not very many of them and I think the Wiki would be a great tool for connecting them with other students like themselves.