Five Ways to Publish on the Web

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In the early days of the Web, if you wanted to post your lesson plans or students' artwork you had to learn how to create Web pages yourself and find a server to store your files. Today, however, there are many more options for publishing curriculum materials and student work online. Here's a quick rundown of five alternatives that don't cost anything or require any programming skills.

Use a Web-Template Site
There are a number of free Web-template sites available that you can use to create an art department website with a student art gallery. For example, Google Sites (**sites.google.com**) and **Weebly.com** both allow you to easily create a website using available templates, point-and-click editing features, and drag-and-drop options. With Weebly, you can also set up a blog like Tennessee art teacher Angela Christopher did at **aesthetech.weebly.com.**

Set Up a Blog
Since blogs are so easy to set up and manage, they have become a popular alternative to conventional websites for publishing classroom materials and student artwork online. With free blogging sites like Blogger (**www.blogger.com**), Edublogs (**edublogs.org**), and Wordpress (**wordpress.com**), you can have your own blog up and running within a matter of minutes. For examples, check out the blogs of Jan Johnson (**snippetygibbet.blogspot.com**), Tim Needles (**artroom161.blogspot.com**), and Anne Pfeiffe (**digitalarted.blogspot.com**).

Start an Art Department Wiki
Wikis are collaborative writing tools that allow any registered user to edit an existing page, create a new page, and add new material. They're easy to use and work much like word-processing software with various editing features for adding or deleting text, inserting graphics, and posting video clips and podcasts. Both Wikispaces (**www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers**) and Wetpaint (**www.wetpaint.com/category/education**) offer ad-free wikis for K–12 teachers. To see how a wiki can be used in art education, visit art teacher Susan Pirrello's wiki (**pirrellospage.wikispaces.com**).

Use a Media-Sharing Site
Another option is to use a media-sharing site like Flickr (**flickr.com**) or TeacherTube (**teachertube.com**) to post images or videos of student work online. One of the benefits of using a public media-sharing site is that students' work is exposed to a wider audience than typically occurs with a school-based website. For examples of art programs that post student work on Flickr, see the photostreams of Darien Public Schools' art department in Connecticut (**tinyurl.com/4y3u83**) and Fortismere Secondary School's art and photography department in North London (**tinyurl.com/4awec9**). If you're interested in posting student-made videos online, TeacherTube is a safe alternative to YouTube.com. See Illinois art teacher Tricia Fuglestad's TeacherTube page (**tinyurl.com/4gnbz9**) for an excellent example.

Post to Sites That Invite Submissions of Student Work
There are a number of sites that post children's artwork submitted by teachers or parents for free. One is Saatchi Gallery, which offers teachers everywhere the opportunity to create a school portfolio (**www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/portfolio**) to display artwork created by students between four and eighteen years old. Another popular option is Artsonia (**www.artsonia.com**), which allows teachers to create their own galleries of student artwork and post their favorite lesson plans. Artsonia, the world's largest kids' art museum, offers a wide range of educational services on the site to support art teachers along with a number of choices for parents to purchase their children's work printed on clothing, mugs, mouse pads, and so on.

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