Formative Assessment and Review with Web 2.0 Tools

by Susan Martin

Description: Throughout my studies in instructional technology, I have learned about many assessment tools that are easy to use in the classroom if one has internet access and devices, preferably in a 1:1 device program. My school has neither; however, I am still eager to use web 2.0 tools whenever I can, so I incorporated them into my class website for student use at home. I used Quizlet for review of literary terms and vocabulary words. I created a Thinglink image that also used in my face-to-face lesson. I recently added an embedded “wall” using Padlet for student comments. After introducing these tools to my students, one student decided to create her own Quizlets. She even encouraged other students to get the Quizlet app. Since the beginning of the school year, these students have been sharing Quizlets with one another.

Impact: With the internet restrictions in my school, I was not sure that linking to these web 2.0 tools would be worthwhile on my class website. I was pleasantly surprised by the response from a small group of students who are technologically savvy and whose parents allow them internet access. I know that this can create a digital divide within my classes so I have not promoted these tools often. I am motivated by my students’ opinions that we need access to the internet for a more engaging education.

Intent: I intend to lobby for internet access in our classrooms and less restricted internet access in the computer lab so that we can utilize web 2.0 tools that will help our students learn in a more engaging way and will also help teachers assess their students more easily. Once new policies are in place, I hope to conduct professional development on these tools so that teachers realize how easy they are to use in the classroom on a daily basis.