



# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

October 2018 y 2013



## The 101 of Research for Kids

<https://askatechteacher.com/2018/09/25/great-research-websites-for-kids/>

It's difficult finding kid-safe research websites that really are. Even Google SafeSearch has issues at times. Here's my list of safe spots to send your students for research. Before rolling any of these out, preview them all to be sure they fit your unique student group:

[CoolKidFacts](#)—kid-friendly videos, pictures, info, and quizzes—all 100% suitable for children

[CyberSleuth Kids](#)—free kid-friendly graphics

[Fact Monster](#)—help with homework and facts

[History Channel](#)—great speeches

[How Stuff Works](#)—the gold standard in explaining stuff to kids

[Info Please](#)—events cataloged year-by-year

[Library Spot](#)—an extensive collection of kid's research tools

[National Geographic for Kids](#)

[SchoolsWorld.TV](#)—an eclectic collection of educational videos

[Smithsonian Quest](#)—sign up your class; student research/explore with the Smithsonian

[SqoolTube](#) Videos—educational videos for Prek-12

[TagGalaxy](#)—search using a cloud

[Wild Wordsmyth](#)—picture dictionary for kids

[World Almanac for Kids](#)

[World Book](#)—requires membership

[Zanran](#)—statistics and data research

### Citation Resources

Once students have found the information they need online, here are great places to make sure they provide the proper citations:

[BibMe](#)

[Citation Machine](#)

[EasyBib](#)

### Kids Search Engines

For the youngest researchers, you want more than kid-safe websites. You want an entire search engine that will point students to only the safest, G-rated sites. There are a lot out there but these are the only I recommend at this point:

**Kiddle**— a visual search engine for kids

**Kid Rex**

**Kidtopia**

### **How to Research**

To properly research requires training and practice. Here are sites that will provide both:

**A Google A Day**

**How to Search on Google**

**Power Searching** (with Google)

**Teaching students to search/research**

**Internet Search and Research**—a lesson plan for K-8



The month of October is National Multicultural Diversity Month. For more than a decade, educators have celebrated National Multicultural Diversity Day on the third Monday in October. The day was adopted as a national event by the 1993 Representative Assembly to "increase awareness of the tremendous need to celebrate our diversity collectively. Diversity is a core democratic value and that we should respect all people. Diversity means freedom and justice for all of us,

Resources:

### **Similar and Different Activity (Grades K-3):**

Students discuss the ways in which they are similar and different. This is a great activity to enjoy as an icebreaker during back to school, or when discussing diversity.

<https://www.teachervision.com/icebreakers/similar-different-activity>

### **Developing Empathy (Grades K-12):**

This lesson helps students gain a deeper understanding of empathy and how to put it into practice.

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/developing-empathy>

### **Understanding the Depth and Breadth of "Multicultural": (Grades 9-12)**

The Depth and Breadth of "Multicultural" is designed to engage students in a process of defining "culture" and examining its complexities.

<http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/activities/multicultural.html>



## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK OCTOBER 15-19, 2018

<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/20312>

The Department of Educational Technology will be celebrating Digital Citizenship Week, October 15-19, 2018 by participating in a #Device Free Dinner Challenge.

Information Link: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Domain/431>

Learn about online safety, cyberbullying, netiquette, privacy, copyright, and the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior to help young people consider their digital footprint. There has never been a better time to be a young creator!

Free and low-cost digital tools allow students to write blogs, share their photos and art work on social media, create videos and develop a YouTube following, and collaborate on projects with peers around the world.

These are just a few of the ways today's young citizens – digital citizens – are taking advantage of the opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world. But along with those opportunities come responsibilities. Students must learn to act and model behavior that is safe, legal and ethical.

The elements of digital citizenship, it turns out, are not so different from the basic tenets of traditional citizenship: Be kind, respectful and responsible, and participate in activities that make the world a better place.

Just as all kids throughout the centuries have needed help from their parents, teachers and mentors along the path to becoming good citizens, our digital natives need guidance as they learn how to apply the elements of citizenship to the realities they encounter in a connected world.

<https://www.edutopia.org/topic/digital-citizenship>

# The 9 Elements of Digital Citizenship

## 5 DIGITAL ETIQUETTE on the WEB

Do students know when to use technology appropriately & always in a positive manner?

## 4 DIGITAL LITERACY

Do students know how to use various digital technologies and how to assess legitimacy of web resources?

## 6 DIGITAL LAW

Do students understand how to use and share digital content legally & how to respect content ownership by citing sources?

## 3 DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

Do students understand what is appropriate to share through email, texting, video chatting & social media?

## 7 DIGITAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Do students understand that they have a right to safe & friendly digital communications and a responsibility to report instances that threaten this?

## 2 DIGITAL COMMERCE

Are students aware of the dangers and benefits of buying and selling online?

  
"With great power comes great responsibility"  
- SPIDERMAN

## 8 DIGITAL HEALTH

Are students aware of the physical and psychological dangers of excessive internet usage?

## 1 DIGITAL ACCESS

Are educators & students aware that not everyone has equal access to technology resources?

## 9 DIGITAL SECURITY

Do students know how to stay safe by using difficult passwords, virus protection, backing up data, and being aware of identity theft, phishing, & other online scams?

(Based on the work of Mike Ribble)

@sylviaconductorth  
@courasa



**10 Apps Every Teacher Needs NOW!**  
**Tuesday, October 30, 2018 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EDT**

Technology in the educational arena is moving at warp speed—it is almost impossible for teachers to keep up with all the innovations in the app world. In order to stay connected, it helps to meet with a large group of knowledgeable colleagues who have vetted numerous apps and determined whether or not they have a place in the classroom.

Join edtech aficionado Shannon Holden as he examines ten apps that are the “Best of the Best” in 2018. Elementary through high school educators will benefit from attending this session.

Register here:

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED56DA84884A3E>



**Parents' Ultimate Guide to Snapchat**



<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>



[Animatron](#) is a nice tool for creating animated videos and images. To create a video on Animatron you start by dragging and dropping characters on a background scene and then choosing how long each character will be displayed in a scene. You can also set the length of time for each character in a scene to be in motion. By using Animatron's timeline editor you can make objects appear and disappear from a scene. The best feature of Animatron is that you can record audio directly over the animation. The built-in recording tools lets you see the scene while you're recording so that you can precisely synchronize each scene with its audio track.



TeachersFirst Professional Learning includes tutorials for creating technology projects (such as wikis or blogs), classroom activities, and assessment. Find information about our free virtual workshops and Twitter chats. TeachersFirst Professional Learning pages are created by experienced teachers who know everyday classroom realities.



## Pre-K

Provide preschool students with early language, math, and social skills using our resources for the pre-K classroom. Prepare them to attend Kindergarten.

## Creative Storm - A Next Vista Video Contest

<https://tinyurl.com/y8pg4s4m>



[Next Vista](#) for Learning is a great place for teachers and students to share short video lessons that they create. I have been recommending the service for almost ten years now. One of the aspects of Next Vista for Learning that I particularly like is the video contests that are run a couple of times each year. The current contest, open to entries now through December 14th, is called [Creative Storm](#).

[Creative Storm](#) is a video creation contest that has three categories. There is a category for student-produced videos, a category for teacher-produced videos, and a category for videos created through the collaborative efforts of teachers and students. Regardless of the category, all videos must teach a lesson in 90 seconds or less. The lesson can be about almost any concept a person would learn about in elementary, middle, or high school. Take a look at this video made by a Kindergarten class or any of the previous contest's finalists here for some inspiration.

Contest winners receive iTunes gift cards and the pride of showcasing their videos for a larger audience.

Applications for Education

First, Next Vista provides an excellent alternative to posting students' videos on sites like YouTube or Vimeo. Second, Next Vista can be a great source of inspiration for creating a video project.



## Cyberbullying, Haters, and Trolls

<https://www.comsensedia.org/cyberbullying>

Once kids go online, their chances of finding cyberbullies, haters, and trolls is, sadly, quite high. Find age-specific guidelines, videos, and articles to help with tough conversations -- whether your kid is a bully or is being bullied. We answer all your cyberbullying questions, offering age-appropriate advice, school resources, and more from parents and experts.



<https://www.controlaltachieve.com/2018/08/classroom-updates-2018.html>

Google has been very busy over the summer for the start of the new 2018 school year. Classroom has received nine updates, and has three more to come in the near future. In this blog post we will take a look at each of these updates, how they work, and what impact they will have on teaching and learning.

- Update #1 - New Classwork Page
- Update #2 - Streamlined Stream Page
- Update #3 - New People Page
- Update #4 - New Settings Page
- Update #5 - Deprecated About Page
- Update #6 - Quick Switch when Grading
- Update #7 - Feedback Options when Grading
- Update #8 - Copy a Class
- Update #9 - Disable Notifications for an Entire Class



Creating an “app” like experience using Google Slides is a super fun idea for students to CREATE their own “apps.”

Many schools and classrooms would love to have their own app but the skills and/or cost of developing an app is often beyond our immediate reach.

You can start with this template: [bit.ly/slidesappCOPY](http://bit.ly/slidesappCOPY) and change images and content as you wish or follow the simple steps at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybsabvxx>

# How to Create an Online Discussion Space for Your Classes - And Why to Try It



<https://www.freetech4teachers.com/2018/09/7-reasons-to-try-using-backchannels-in.html>

Creating an online discussion space, often referred to as a backchannel, is one of the ways that nearly all teachers can create more opportunities for students to interact with them and their classmates.

## 7 Reasons to Try Using Backchannels in Your Classroom

### 1. A Voice for Shy Students

Typing a response or asking a question in a backchannel chat can be a little less intimidating for some students who aren't comfortable asking questions aloud.

### 2. An Outlet for Chatty Students

We've all had that student who wants to say something about everything. A backchannel chat gives that student a place to ask all of the questions that he/she can think of.

### 3. Extend Classroom Discussions

If you've ever had a great classroom discussion cut short by the sound of the bell, a backchannel can help. With an online backchannel chat your students can continue to add comments and questions to the discussion after the school day ends.

### 4. Post Quick Warm-up/ "Do Now" Activities

Do you need a place to post little activities for your kids to do when they walk into your classroom? If so, post those warm-up activities in a backchannel chat for students to see when they open their laptops or unlock their iPads.

### 5. Preserve the Flow of a Presentation/ Video

When showing videos in a classroom there are always students who want to ask questions about what they're seeing and others who are annoyed by those questions interrupting the flow of the video. By using a backchannel the students who need to ask questions can do so and I can respond to them without breaking the flow of the presentation for the other students.

### 6. Create a Record of a Classroom Discussion

Have you ever had a student who was absent during a great classroom discussion come back to you a day later and ask, "what did I miss?" If so, a backchannel chat could be a solution for you. Using a backchannel to have kids share their questions and their comments creates a record of some of the highlights of your classroom discussion.

### 7. Practice Good Digital Citizenship

Hosting a backchannel chat for class by using a tool like Backchannel Chat or Yo Teach! can provide you with good opportunity to have your students develop digital citizenship skills in the form of respectful online discussion. Both Backchannel Chat and Yo Teach let you remove inappropriate comments and mute students who don't adhere to the standards that you have set for online discussion.

[Yo Teach!](#) is easy to use and packed with features that teachers want. Not only can you and your students type messages in Yo Teach, you can also use image notes in a Yo Teach! room. Students can also give a “thumbs up” to their favorite image and text notes in the discussion. Watch [video](#) for a complete overview of Yo Teach!

[Backchannel Chat](#) is a service through which you can create an online discussion space for your students. In your Backchannel Chat discussion rooms you can post comments and questions for your students to respond to. Your students can respond in real-time. Students can ask you and their classmates questions within the confines of your Backchannel Chat room. The free version of Backchannel Chat limits you to 30 participants at a time. Watch [video](#) to learn how to use Backchannel Chat.

## Administrator’s Resource Center



### Characteristics of Culturally Proficient Leaders

When asked about school leadership, most people in the school community focus on specific behaviors they observe in formal leaders, then judge how those behaviors measure up against what they believe to be appropriate behaviors. Some people prefer leaders who leave them alone, whereas others prefer leaders who are deeply involved with them in their classrooms. Everyone has a different list of specific characteristics. We prefer to broaden our vision to look at the overall qualities of leadership, particularly qualities that facilitate movement toward cultural proficiency. In this section, we provide a context for understanding the leadership at your school, a necessary step for developing culturally proficient leadership skills in yourself and in those with whom you work.

Leaders can motivate others to excel and to move in desirable directions or diffuse or otherwise block plans for change. In either case, contemporary researchers have found that effective leaders consistently show several key characteristics, whether they are in private businesses, corporate enterprises, or local school districts (Argyris, 1990; Collins, 2001; Heifetz & Linsky, 2002; Marzano, 2003; Senge, Roberts, Ross, Smith, & Kleiner, 1994; Senge et al., 2000; Wheatley, 1994, 2002; Alvy, 2017; Carter & White, 2018). These characteristics include the following:

Taking responsibility for one's own learning

Creating conditions for continuous improvement

Having a vision for what the school can be

Effectively sharing the vision with others

Assessing one's own assumptions and beliefs

Understanding the structural, organic, and disruptive nature of schools

Leading through innovation, diversity, and collaboration

We have observed that culturally proficient leaders show these characteristics, whether they do so intuitively or as a result of intentionally studying how to lead effectively. Furthermore, culturally proficient leaders learn and use what they learn about themselves, those with whom they work, and within the schools they work.

**Read full article....**

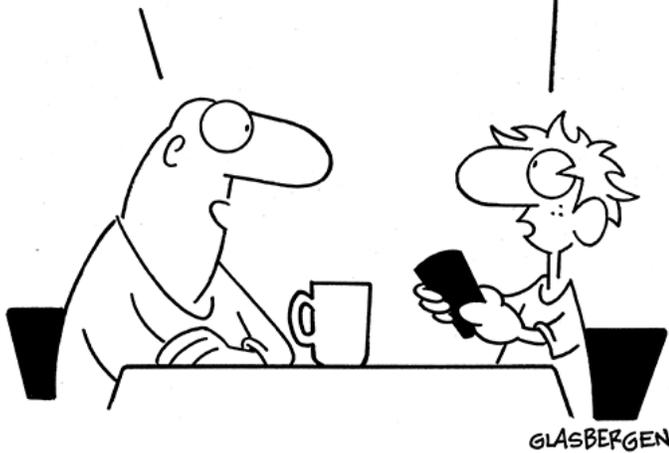
<http://corwin-connect.com/2018/08/characteristics-of-culturally-proficient-leaders/>

# TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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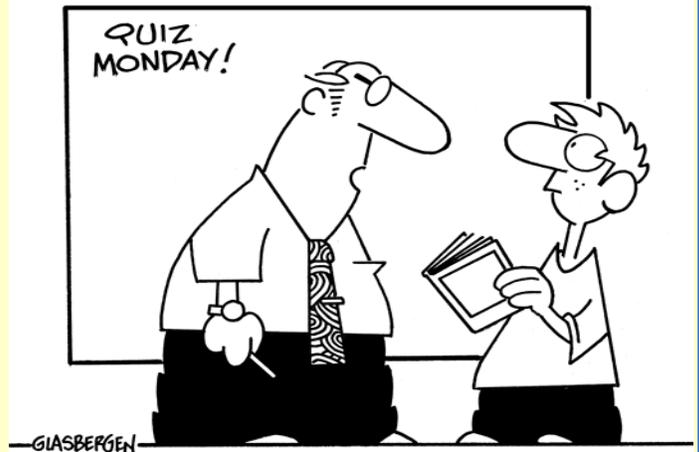
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MOVING TO THE INTERNET.  
YOU MUST BE PRETTY  
HAPPY ABOUT THAT.

WHAT'S A  
NEWSPAPER?



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QUIZ  
MONDAY!



"If you can figure out the words in a text message,  
you can figure out the words in Chaucer."



"My term paper is almost finished. I updated my software,  
defragmented my hard drive, bookmarked an online dictionary, and  
installed new ink cartridges. Now all I need are some words and a topic!"

