

GETTING CERTIFIED FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

By Samantha Fecich

Hello, friends, and welcome to another edition of Technically Speaking! Today I'm going to share with you several tools you can use to engage your students in creating content for class. It's important during this time of need that we provide our students with choice and a voice to show what they know in different ways. So let's jump into some edtech tools that will help your students create and conquer their knowledge!

sources and share them with your class. I use Wakelet as a space for students to find content related to class and to engage my students during class. Instead of me presenting different court cases and laws related to special education, I assigned a pair of students a case and they created a wakelet about it. With Wakelet, students could collaborate on the topic; add images, links, video, PDFs, and text; and then present their wakelets to the large group. This was a great way for students to dive deeper into a content area and share what they know. They then shared their wakelets with one another to study for an upcoming test. To see an example of Wakelet, check out this one about teacher self-care: bit.ly/TeaCare.



Adobe Spark

With Adobe Spark, students can create website pages, posts, videos, graphics, collages, presentations, and more. I enjoy using Adobe Spark to create videos and informative pages. Students can start from scratch or use a template and create a beautifully designed product. In my college course, students use Adobe Spark to create an "about me" video, where they bring their teaching philosophy to life through images, video, music, and words. It's a great way for them to stand out on their digital portfolios. I have created Adobe Spark pages for book study questions and review along with resources for my students. To see an example, check out "The 5-Day Teaching Philosophy Challenge" (bit.ly/PhilChal).



Dr. Fecich is a former special education teacher and is now Assistant Professor in the Education Department at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. She is the author of EduMagic: A Guide for Preservice Teachers. Please send your educational technology questions to Sfecich@gmail.com



Wakelet

Wakelet has been around for a while, but I just caught the wave this summer. This is a fantastic tool to collect re-



Flipgrid

This tool is a great way for students to make a video based on a prompt that you provide. Set up a group (or a class) and a topic for your students. After that, you share the code with your class, and students can respond via video with the click of a button. They can record themselves speaking or record their screen. For more information, check out "You'll Flip for Flipgrid" (bit.ly/YoullFlip).

I recommend that you try one tool at a time and master it. Take small steps in adding these tools into your classroom. Remember, you can do this! Providing students with different ways to show what they know will give them more opportunities to shine in your class. 🍏

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