

# Five Ways to Publish on the Web



## Craig Roland

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.blogger.com)), Edublogs ([edublogs.org](http://edublogs.org)), and Wordpress ([wordpress.com](http://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](http://snippetygibbet.blogspot.com)), Tim Needles ([artroom161.blogspot.com](http://artroom161.blogspot.com)), and Anne Pfeiffe ([digitalarted.blogspot.com](http://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](http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers)) and Wetpaint ([www.wetpaint.com/category/education](http://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](http://pirrellospage.wikispaces.com)).

### Use a Media-Sharing Site

Another option is to use a media-sharing site like Flickr ([flickr.com](http://flickr.com)) or TeacherTube ([teachertube.com](http://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 photo-streams of Darien Public Schools' art department in Connecticut ([tinyurl.com/4y3u83](http://tinyurl.com/4y3u83)) and Fortismere Secondary School's art and photography department in North London ([tinyurl.com/4awec9](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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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