

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Top Tips

Free Online Tools for Educators

Here are two sites that offer free online tools that you (and your students) can use for instruction. One site is a giant (Google.com), and the other is a flea (Answers.com); but size does not equate to benefits. A little site can be better than a humongous site if the site delivers what you need.

Google for teachers delivers, but when the "king of search engines" offers tools for educators, you can bet that these tools will be impressive, and free.

Of course, Google's aim for world domination stretches from the Internet to the desktop of every computer, and you don't know what information Google is collecting as its "searchbots" search your computer system.

Of course Google is not in this game because it is altruistic. Besides caring for our teachers and youth, Google would like to move paying customers away from a dependence upon Microsoft; and to a dependence upon services that Google will provide, instead. Whether we move to a world where there are few stand-alone, individual computer programs; and only online services remains to be seen.

Something has to change before this "plan/ scheme/ wild idea/ ?" becomes feasible. But, Google would convince you to join them in moving to this online software use model, thereby clobbering (and maybe) "blind siding"

Microsoft; What is the Bait the Google sets to Capture your Devotion? Google Tools for Educators" offers an impressive array of free services;

These include: Tools for your classroom

Teacher Community The Tools for your Classroom service contains links to a lot of other resources, for example:

Lots of "search" resources; Book Search

Earth

Maps

A Teacher's Personalized Home Page

A Tutorial on Google's Advance Search Features Other tools include: A Blogging Tools

A Shared Calendar

Online Word Processing and Spreadsheets

A Picture Sharing Program (Picasa)

A 3D Modeling Program (Sketchup) You can have fun registering for these services and exploring for hours. What about Answers.Com? If you check on the services at Answers.Com, you may find that smaller might even mean "better." Or, at least more usable for every class that you teach.

What does Answers.Com Provide? Free Tools

1-Click Answers

Teacher Toolkit

Free Poster Center

Research Right

Teacher Newsletter

Mission Possible Movie Decide for yourself which of these sets of tools is more useful for your students and yourself.

Posted by Classroom Toolkit Newsletter in Top Tips at 08:00