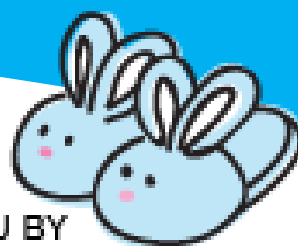


# Blogging 101:

FREE Education Content Resources



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# Whether you're a blogging newbie or a superstar, this eBook is for you.

In the blogging world, content is king. The #1 key to having a successful blog is having really *great* content. Consistently.

But unless you're a professional, full-time blogger it's often hard to find the time to produce the quality content you need. We're here to help and get you on your way. We know you're busy and finding time to constantly update your blog can be a challenge.

This eBook will give you over a year's worth of blog-worthy content – from posts, to videos, to LIVE events you can invite your readers to.

To start, we've written 9 blog posts and are giving them to you to use on your blog. That's right... we've done all the work for you and you're 100% free to use these posts word-for-word as your own. Or, tweak them to meet your blogging style or personality. We've written three posts in each of the these three blog content categories:

- **Advice and Information Posts**

**Hint:** Don't be afraid to give yourself a voice and express your thoughts and ideas! Always provide your readers with interesting and useful information.

- **Video Posts**

**Hint:** Videos are a nice alternative to reading a bunch of text. To include a video directly in your blog post, you will need to embed the video's HTML code.

- **eBook Posts**

**Hint:** People LOVE freebies! Offering things to your readers is another great way to engage your audience.

PLUS, at the end of this eBook we'll give you sources of content that will give you 100's of great posts.

Happy Blogging!



# 5 Education iPhone Apps You Can't Live Without

Chances are that your students already have cell phones. It's not uncommon for kids as young as seven years old to own and use a mobile device. Are they using iPhones? If so, there are a number of great education apps that can be used inside the classroom. Let me guess - your students keep pulling their cell phones out in the middle of class. Why fight a losing battle asking them to continuously put them away when you can start encouraging them to use them for educational purposes.

Here are 5 free iPhone apps that are great to use for classroom management and will serve as learning tools for your students.

## 1. [WordPress for iPhone](#)

WordPress is a great app that can benefit teachers in several ways. Perhaps one of the most widely used apps for mobile blogging, teachers can use WordPress to send out periodic updates to students via the blog, post assignments to be done, suggest reading material, and overall, just stay connected to your blog audience while on the move! Do you have students that have iPhones? You could also encourage your students to submit comments via their phone. Don't forget, you can always put students in groups to work together since not everyone will have an iPhone.

## 2. [iFlashCards](#)

iFlashCards is an app that sounds exactly like it is –flashcards that can be carried around in a convenient digital format! The great thing about this app is that everything can be shared online. Using the very customizable options, teachers can dictate what material should be focused on, allowing students to create and edit the cards, as well as set 5 different study modes: preview, skim, medium, thorough, and test. This could be a great homework assignment or bonus opportunity to give to students. It could also be a fun way for students to spend part of the class –let them study their new cards! It also gives students a means to create their own digital content.

## 3. [Fluent News Reader](#)

Help your students stay aware of what's going on in the world -using the Fluent News Reader app! This app aggregates the top stories from different major news services such as CNN, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, FOX News, etc. Once downloaded, these stories are available for offline viewing. This could be a great way to start off your class each day, allowing you to get the day's biggest headlines in a glance. Of course, be careful! As with any news content, you can't always be sure that all headlines and stories are appropriate for the little ones. With younger students, you can filter and select the headlines yourself – with older students, let them browse through selecting their favorites and reporting back to the class. Current events don't get much more current than this!

## 4. [Dropbox 1.2.5.](#)

Dropbox is a really cool app that lets teachers access their personal files. This app gives you 2GB of file storage that can be accessed from any computer, at any time. On iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, the app allows you to view documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and some videos and photos that you've put into your personal file space. Have something on your home computer that you want to share with your students? Save it in the Dropbox and you're good to go!

## 5. [Dragon Dictation 2.0.0](#)

Tired of typing out a lengthy assignment or email? Ever wanted to dictate a long series of notes and then e-mail or text them? Dragon Dictation can do that for you! Just load up the app, tap the red button, and dictate for one minute at a time. The latest version even has multilingual support and allows you to paste text directly. This is a great administrative tool for teachers, but also a great learning app to use with students. In a language class? This app can make a "traditional" speech drill much more fun! Or, ask your students to recite their original creative poem into the phone. The possibilities are endless.

Share your favorite iPhone apps with me down in the comments.



# 7 Social Media Tips for Teachers

Does our world revolve around social media?

Social media has certainly improved communication channels around the world dramatically, bridging countries together as never before. Not just for recreation, social media has also entered the education field. Many teachers have included the use of social media inside their classroom. As with any powerful resource or tool, it must be used responsibly.

Here are 7 social media tips to help keep teachers safe:

## 1. Make Connections

Don't be afraid to start building your own Personal Learning Network (PLN) and meeting new people. Our world is more connected now than ever before, allowing you to share ideas and build relationships with teachers and parents all over the place.

## 2. Blend New with the Old

It's important to embrace new technology and incorporate it inside the classroom, but don't leave all of the old ways behind. A good teacher knows how to start blend the two, still using traditional methods of teaching but in collaboration with social media.

## 3. Start Participating

With so many different options available, there is something for everyone! Make a Twitter account and constantly be updated with what's new in the world, share and read intriguing articles, and use hashtags to create discussion topics. Create a blog and post discussion topics, allow students to comment, and always update it with class assignments.

## 4. Stay Active

Always contribute and work hard to stay engaged. If you start to become inactive, you won't be viewed as a relevant source of knowledge and can even be forgotten. Social media is about interaction so keep your audiences interested.

## 5. Give Your Class a Facelift

Take your class discussions online, using a safe collaboration platform like [Collaborize Classroom](#). Forget journals – encourage your students to start building writing skills by blogging. Kids are much more willing to participate in class activities when they are new and exciting.

## 6. Keep an Eye on Things

Online dangers exist just as they do offline, so be prepared. Monitor conversations and language that are taking place. Edmodo and Edublogs are great tools that allow students to benefit from social media while also allowing teachers to keep an eye on things. Just a little supervision is all it takes to help minimize online dangers.

## 7. Take Baby Steps

Start small and see how much you can handle. Social media can take a lot of time so determine what your limit is. You can always work your way up once you have a good feel of things.



# New Teachers: How to Survive Your First Years Teaching

Starting any job can be nerve wrecking – especially first-time teaching. There are so many new challenges facing educators nowadays then there used to be. So how does one get prepared?

For any new teachers wondering if there is a guide to follow, check out this article I found. Whether you're fresh out of college or transitioning from a different career, here are some tips to help get you started teaching on the right foot.

[How to Survive Your First Years of Teaching](http://tinyurl.com/NewTeacherSurvival)  
<http://tinyurl.com/NewTeacherSurvival>

Here's your chance to help new teachers learn the tricks of the trade in becoming a successful educator.

Please share any advice or information about your experience teaching down in the comments.



# [Video] Engage Parents with a Blog

We've all seen them – black holes that enter and leave our classrooms every day. Not sure what I'm talking about? Just think about it for a second.

Nearly every teacher knows at least one student with a bottomless backpack. Once these students put papers inside, they're never seen again. Parents miss important notes, homework and tests disappear.

What can we do? Surely there has to be a way to improve communication between home and school?

Here's a great solution I recently came across. This video provides an easy and creative idea to fix this problem: **Create a classroom blog!**

Watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPzy5Rcga04>



**The Blog Site Video discusses:**

- How to turn a blog into a virtual backpack.
- Ways to engage parents.
- Factors to consider when using a blog to keep parents informed.

Are you effectively getting information from the classroom to your students' homes? Tell me in the comments what works for you.



[Click here to receive the HTML code for this blog post.](#)

# [Video] Help Children Avoid Plagiarism

Remember when writing research papers meant taking a trip to the nearest library? Not anymore!

Our 21<sup>st</sup> century students have more resources available at their fingertips within seconds than we used to find after searching for hours at the local library. In today's digital world, it's easy to gather information for a research paper if you have access to the Internet. This is both a blessing and curse –with the vast amount of resources and information available online, it is more important than ever that we educate kids of the dangers of plagiarism.

This video I found does a great job explaining what Plagiarism is and also offers suggestions to help children avoid plagiarism.

Watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EqPkMN5S3g&feature=related>



**The Plagiarism Video discusses:**

- Consequences of plagiarism.
- Guidelines for properly citing resources.
- Suggestions for developing good research and writing skills.

How familiar with plagiarism laws are your students? Tell me in the comments.



# [Video] Put a Stop to Cyberbullying

Every day, thousands of kids wake up afraid to leave their houses or go to school. Can you guess why?

We all know that kids can be incredibly cruel to each other. Almost every child, and almost every adult, is the victim of bullying at some point in his or her life. Here's the really scary part - bullying is no longer confined to just the physical world. Since the Internet has become such an important part of our world today, it's no wonder that bullying has become a problem online as well.

There's even a name for it: **Cyberbullying**.

I came across a great video that explains what Cyberbullying is and discusses how you can protect children online.

Watch this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX3VPf137YY>



## The Cyberbullying Video discusses:

- Harassment and threats transmitted on the Internet using chat rooms, e-mail, social networking sites and other forms of communication.
- Different types of Cyberbullying.
- Laws regarding Cyberbullying.
- Appropriate responses to and reporting of Cyberbullying.

Are you keeping your students and kids safe from Cyberbullies and harassment? Tell me in the comments what actions you've started taking.



[Click here to receive the HTML code for this blog post.](#)



# [eBook] 11 Free Hidden Webtools

Sure, there are a lot of really cool things on the Internet for teachers...especially webtools. But did you know how many of those teacher-friendly webtools are actually FREE?

Everyone likes free stuff –but not everyone knows how to find it. Many people just don't have the time to go look. Myself included.

It's a good thing I came across another terrific free resource. SimpleK12 has done the work for me – they've searched the Internet and found 11 Hidden gems for creating an engaging learning experience for both me and my students!

I can't keep this secret to myself... every teacher should go get a free copy of this eBook. These are tools that no 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom should be without!

[Get Your Free eBook Now](#)

<http://simplek12.com/tlc/kpw25b/>

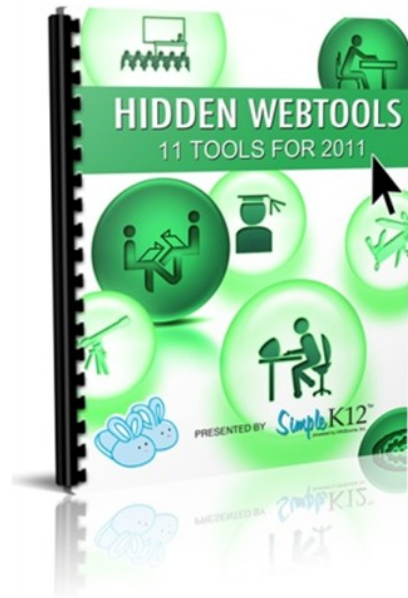
**Inside SimpleK12's Hidden Webtools eBook:**

- Video editors
- Virtual Field Trip
- Multimedia Timeline
- File sharers & converters
- Educational public images
- And much more!

These webtools are so cool – I can't believe they're all **FREE!**

[Hidden Webtools: 11 Tools for 2011](#)

Let me know in the comments which tool is your favorite, or what tools you would add to the list.



[Click here to receive the HTML code for this blog post.](#)

# [eBook] 32 Tips for the Techphobic Teacher

Technology is all around us and it's here to stay – are you ready?

Maybe you know someone who is scared to try something new and you're looking for ways to help them. Or maybe you have a few symptoms of techphobia and are looking for a cure?

Whether you're an EdTech Eddie or a Techphobic Tracy, it is essential to incorporate technology into your lesson plans. Despite what some may think, this process can be accomplished quite smoothly. So how do you get started? By getting over your fear of technology, of course.



I've found a free eBook that shows how technology is meant to help make our lives easier, save time, and it can even be fun!

[Get Your Free eBook Now](http://simplek12.com/tlc/ttx32/)

<http://simplek12.com/tlc/ttx32/>

**Inside the Techphobic eBook, you'll discover:**

- 32 Tips from real teachers
- Practical advice to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom

Getting this eBook is the FIRST step to overcoming your techphobia! Don't let technology get the best of you. It's time to stop the struggle!

Don't wait – go get it today.

[32 Tips for the Techphobic Teacher](http://simplek12.com/tlc/ttx32/)



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# [eBook] Integrating Podcasts Into Your Classroom

Are your students enjoying a true 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experience?

Thanks to technology, it's easier now than ever before to create an engaging and exciting classroom. Podcasts, digital audio and/or video recording that can be downloaded and enjoyed on either a computer or music player, are a great way to make learning fun. Bring new life to your seasoned lesson plans and use them with students of all ages, from elementary to secondary.

But how do you use Podcasts to enhance lesson plans and class activities?

Here's a great resource that will help ignite your imagination.

**[Get your free eBook now](http://simplek12.com/tlc/pod774/)**

**<http://simplek12.com/tlc/pod774/>**

**Inside the Integrating Podcasts Workbook, you'll discover:**

- How to easily solve the problems caused when a student misses a day of class.
- Ways to help students keep up with their homework.
- Podcasts don't have to be "just" audio.

The possibilities for integrating podcasts into the classroom are endless. This free workbook will get you on your way to using podcasts with your students.

**[Integrating Podcasts Workbook](#)**

Tell me in the comments down below how you are making learning fun in your classroom.



**[Click here to receive the HTML code for this blog post.](#)**

# Want More Free Stuff to Give Away?

Help your readers keep up with all the latest education trends when you use SimpleK12 as a source for content! You're welcome to give away our most popular eBooks, invite readers to upcoming LIVE webinars, and share all of our YouTube videos. Here's your chance to become a one-stop-shop for timely, relevant information. Try writing your own blog posts about each of the following:



## 101 FREE Tech Tools for Teachers eBook

<http://simplek12.com/tlc/rpa964/>



## Searching with Google Workbook

<http://simplek12.com/tlc/qaq22/>



## Interactive Whiteboards Workbook

<http://simplek12.com/tlc/gxz37/>



## 100's of LIVE Webinar Events

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<http://youtube.com/SimpleK12Team>

