Technology Tools for the Flipped Reading Block

An Annotated List of Resources

Teacher Tools

There are many digital tools available today to enhance your teaching and students' learning. In this section, I share tools that I have used effectively when teaching in flipped reading classrooms and that I have observed being used effectively in other teachers' classrooms.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Learning management systems allow teachers to set up online classrooms, embed videos, and create opportunities for collaboration on a discussion board. Here are some popular platforms:

Blackboard
▶ http://www.blackboard.com

Canvas
▶ http://www.canvaslms.com

Edmodo
▶ https://www.edmodo.com

Moodle
▶ https://moodle.org/

Schoology
▶ https://www.schoology.com

TOOLS FOR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Behavior management tools help teachers to promote positive behavior in a student-centered, technology-integrated environment.

Class Dojo

Teachers can give real-time feedback to students by giving points for positive behaviors. Using avatars or photos to represent the students, teachers create classrooms on a computer screen. When a student demonstrates a positive behavior, the teacher awards a point via a tablet or smartphone. The digital class information can be projected on a classroom screen, and/or the teacher can send individual behavior reports electronically to students and parents.

▶ https://www.classdojo.com

Dyknow

This tool allows teachers to interact with student devices. The teacher can see all student screens from his or her screen, chat with individuals or the entire class, and manage students' access to specific sites and apps.

▶ http://www.dyknow.com

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Since teachers cannot monitor content on open social networking sites, these sites may not be appropriate for classroom use, but they can assist teachers in sharing ideas with one another.

Facebook

Teachers can share photos, videos, links, and text with an online community using this platform.

▶ https://www.facebook.com

Instagram

This site allows users to share photos, videos, links, and messages with online followers.

▶ http://instagram.com

Twitter

On this social networking site, users post short messages called "tweets." You can also participate in chats about specific topics in education, sharing ideas with teachers all over the country using hashtags (for example, #edchat) to link the conversation. Check out the list of education chats here: **https://sites.google.com/site/twittereducationchats/**.

▶ https://twitter.com

TOOLS FOR FLIPPED LESSONS

There are many options available for creating your own flipped lessons. Check out these tools to see what will work best for you.

Smartphones and Tablets

Teachers can record themselves using a smartphone or tablet. With the purchase of a tripod, a teacher can create a recording studio right in his or her classroom. This is the easiest way to create flipped lessons.

Educreations

Teachers can create lessons using this online whiteboard and screencasting tool that records one's voice and handwriting in conjunction with any type of image. The user needs an iPad to create the lesson, but students can watch it by using a web browser or via the app.

▶ https://www.educreations.com

Explain Everything

Teachers can screencast by inserting images and video, which they can annotate by typing or using pen tools. Available for iPads and Android devices.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8

▶ https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.morriscooke.explaineverything&hl=en

Screencast-O-Matic

Teachers can capture their screens and record their voices for presentations. They can zoom in or out and draw while recording the screencast. Tutorials are included on the Screencast-O-Matic website. This screencast tool works on Windows and Mac.

▶ http://www.screencast-o-matic.com

Touchcast

Using an iPad, teachers can record themselves in a Touchcast studio, and then add visuals and text to the recording. The tool has a greenscreen feature so that any picture can be used as the background.

▶ https://www.touchcast.com

TOOLS FOR FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

These tools make it easy to communicate with students and collect formative assessment data quickly and easily.

Google Forms

Teachers can use images, videos, and text to create multiple-choice and open-response questions. These questions can be shared by an email link, on the class website, or on the learning management system.

▶ https://www.google.com/forms/about

Poll Everywhere

Teachers can create open-response and multiple-choice polls and use a computer, tablet, or mobile device to send the poll to students.

▶ http://www.polleverywhere.com

Plickers

This tool is a great formative-assessment tool for a teacher without an entire classroom set of devices. The teacher projects a question, students hold up cards to show their answers, and then the teacher quickly scans the cards using a device like a tablet. Plickers records the responses, which can be immediately displayed on a projector.

▶ http://www.plickers.com

Socrative

Teachers can create quizzes and polls, and students can respond using tablets, laptops, or smartphones. Students' responses can be accessed on a downloadable spreadsheet.

▶ http://www.socrative.com

NONFICTION RESOURCES FOR STRATEGY PRACTICE GROUPS

Finding high-quality passages related to a specific theme or content area can be a challenge. These resources are a great place to start your search.

Passages That Include Lexile Levels:

▶ http://www.ReadWorks.org

Current Events Articles:

▶ *Junior Scholastic*: http://junior.scholastic.com

▶ *Do Go News & Current Events*: http://www.dogonews.com/

▶ *The New York Times Learning Network*: http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com

▶ *Time for Kids*: http://www.timeforkids.com

▶ *CNN Student News*: http://www.cnn.com/studentnews

▶ *The Washington Post: Kids Post*: http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/

Social Studies and Science Articles:

▶ *Choices*: http://choices.scholastic.com

▶ *Dig*: http://www.digonsite.com

▶ *ScienceWorld*: http://scienceworld.scholastic.com

▶ *Popular Science*: http://www.popsci.com/category/tags/kids

▶ *The Why Files: The Science Behind the News*: http://whyfiles.org

Kelly Gallagher's Article of the Week

These articles contain content that would interest secondary students, but some of the content may be inappropriate for intermediate and middle school students. Since the reading levels would provide a challenge for high-ability learners, if you determine that the content of a particular article is appropriate, this site could be valuable.

▶ http://www.kellygallagher.org

Newsela

This website provides engaging news stories at a variety of reading levels. This tool allows a teacher to differentiate instruction by selecting the appropriate reading level for each student.

▶ http://www.newsela.com

Student Tools

In the flipped classroom, students have the opportunity to collaborate on projects in order to reflect on and present their learning. The digital tools presented in this section have proven useful to students I've worked with. See Chapter 5 for more information about collaborative and independent projects.

VIDEO CREATION TOOLS

Students living in a digital world enjoy compiling photos and videos into movies that they can share. Students can use these tools for reflective projects.

Animoto

Students can create videos using their images, music, text, and video clips. With any device—computers, tablets, or smartphones—students can use Animoto's tools to create projects that they can share through e-mail, websites, or YouTube. Teachers can set up a free account for their students to use.

▶ https://animoto.com/education/classroom

iMovie

Students can create their own videos using Apple devices. They can import videos and photos as well as add music. Templates are available.

▶ https://www.apple.com/mac/imovie
▶ https://www.apple.com/ios/imovie

Magisto

Using their own video clips, students add music, text, and themes to create videos with a PC, Chromebook, Apple device, or Android. Magisto automatically edits videos and makes them look professional.

▶ http://www.magisto.com

Videolicious

Using iPads and iPhones, students can create videos using photos and video clips along with their recorded voices.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/videolicious/id400853498?mt=8

YouTube Capture

After students record and edit, they can publish videos to YouTube straight from an iPad.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/youtube-capture/id576941441?mt=8

SCREENCAST MAKERS

Just as teachers use screencast makers to teach, so can students. With these tools, students can include text, visuals, and voices to provide instruction to others.

Educreations

Students can create lessons using this online whiteboard and screencasting tool that records one's voice and handwriting in conjunction with any type of image. The user needs an iPad to create the lesson, but others can watch it by using a web browser or via the app.

▶ https://www.educreations.com

Explain Everything

Students can screencast by inserting images and video, which they can annotate on by typing or using pen tools. Available for iPads and Android devices.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/explain-everything/id431493086?mt=8
▶ https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.morriscooke.explaineverything&hl=en

Screencast-O-Matic

Students can capture their screens and record their voices for presentations. They can zoom in or out and draw while recording the screencast. Tutorials are included on the Screencast-O-Matic website. This screencast tool works on Windows and Mac.

▶ www.screencast-o-matic.com

Touchcast

Using an iPad, students can record themselves in a Touchcast studio, and then add visuals and text to the recording. The tool has a greenscreen feature so that any picture can be used as the background.

▶ https://www.touchcast.com

SOUND RECORDING TOOLS

Some students may wish to compose and record music as reflective projects. These tools allow them to have their own studios in the classroom or at home.

Audacity

This free software allows students to record and edit sounds on any computer.

▶ http://audacity.sourceforge.net/

Garage Band

With an online recording studio, students can create and record music using software "instruments" on any computer. Then, they can share recordings on social networks.

▶ https://www.apple.com/mac/garageband
▶ https://www.apple.com/ios/garageband

FLIPBOOK AND CARTOON CREATORS

Graphic novels are wildly popular. Students can use technology to add graphic features to stories they are reading. This would be a fun, reflective project for the artistically-inclined student.

Bennetonplay!

On this site, students can draw with a computer mouse to make a digital version of a flipbook.

▶ http://www.benettonplay.com/toys/flipbookdeluxe

Pixton

With this online tool, students can create comics with text and voice-overs.

▶ http://www.pixton.com

Toondoo

A free iTunes app, Toondoo allows students to create and publish comic books easily.

▶ http://www.toondoo.com

AVATAR CREATORS

Visual representations can aid in understanding. Students can use these creators to make avatars of characters or people in the texts that they are reading.

Insta-3D

Using a simple picture of a face, students can create 3D animated avatars.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/insta3d-create-your-own-3d/id883125430?mt=8

Voki

With this web-based app, students can create speaking avatars.

▶ http://www.voki.com

DIGITAL VISUAL ORGANIZERS

Graphic organizers can assist students as they make sense out of text. These digital organizers add pizzazz to the traditional pencil-and-paper task without the time and artistic talent it would take a student to add visuals by hand.

Creately

Students can use this free, web-based software to create all types of graphic organizers: flowcharts, Venn diagrams, storyboards, timelines, and mind maps. They can use Creately images or upload their own images.

▶ http://creately.com/Free-K12-Education-Templates

Popplet

This tool will enable students to organize ideas and add graphics.

▶ http://popplet.com/

Timetoast

Students can use this site to create interesting timelines with visuals and text.

▶ https://www.timetoast.com

NOTE-TAKING APPS

Note-taking assists readers. These tools allow students to take notes on their devices and add visuals to make the backgrounds of notes interesting.

Dinopad

Using this app, students can take notes on an Android device, and they can create a variety of backgrounds for their notes.

▶ https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ajr.notes.dinopad&hl=en

Evernote

Using any type of device, students can use this tool to take notes and add images.

▶ https://evernote.com

DIGITAL ART TOOLS

Students have always loved putting their imaginations to work through the creation of art. These tools allow them to do this as part of a reflective project, and teachers don't need to worry about paint spills.

Drawing Pad

This app allows students to draw on their devices by using online tools that simulate crayons, colored pencils, paint brushes, stickers, and roller pens.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/drawing-pad/id358207332?mt=8

▶ https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.pogi.DrawingPad&hl=en

Psykopaint

Students can download the iTunes app or paint online using brushes, spray, pencils, and spray guns. They can add special touches to existing images or start from scratch.

▶ http://www.psykopaint.com

DIGITAL NEWS STORY CREATORS

News stories are a classic form of informational communication. These tools allow students to create realistic news stories of their own.

Fodey

On this site, students can write articles and download images to create a realistic looking newspaper.

▶ http://www.fodey.com

News Maker

Using photos and creative headlines, students can create realistic screenshots from the television news.

▶ https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/news-maker-create-the-news/id724872748?mt=8

DIGITAL POSTER AND COLLAGE CREATORS

Posters on which students organize thoughts about reading have been on the regularly assigned book project list for as long as I can remember. Students can create and share these posters digitally with the use of some fun tools.

Glogster

Using computers or iPads, students can create virtual posters with audio, video, images, and text. They can use their own graphics or those provided by Glogster.

▶ http://edu.glogster.com

Photovisi

After choosing a design, students can use this web-based platform to create photo collages.

▶ http://www.photovisi.com

COLLABORATION TOOLS

If students are working with a partner or in a group on a collaborative reflective project, they need a platform for communication when they can't work on the project face-to-face. These tools provide such platforms.

Google Docs

A cloud-based word processor, Google Docs allows multiple users to share and create all types of documents, including Word documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Google Docs is web-based, but it is also available as an app for Chrome, Android, and Apple devices.

▶ https://docs.google.com

You can find helpful tutorials at: http://www.gcflearnfree.org/googledocuments

Padlet

Padlet is an online bulletin board. Multiple students can "pin" digital notes on the bulletin board for the entire group to see.

▶ https://padlet.com/

TitanPad

A free, web-based tool for collaboration, TitanPad allows users to collaborate in real time. Each author can use a different color.

▶ https://titanpad.com/

WEBSITE CREATOR

Students like to share their ideas with the world. Websites let them do this. The following tools provide students with ways to build their own websites.

Kids Website Creator

Students can build their own websites by uploading pictures, videos, and music. They can add forums and chat rooms to their sites.

▶ http://kidswebsitecreator.com/

STORYTELLING TOOLS

Reading and re-telling a story can help a student's comprehension. It can also spark creativity so that students will want to add to another's idea to create a new story. These tools allow them to add sound and visuals so that storywriting is even more fun than it might be with pencil and paper.

Little Bird Tales

With this site and app, students can use their own drawings, photos, and voices to tell stories online.

▶ https://littlebirdtales.com/

Shutterfly Photo Story

Using their own photos, text, voices, and drawings, students can create digital photo stories with this iPad app.

▶ http://www.shutterfly.com/photostoryclassroom

CONTENT CURATION TOOLS

Creating a scrapbook of ideas related to a text can help students make connections to what they are reading. Scrapbooking is fun, but it is time-consuming. These digital tools make it easy and quick.

LiveBinder

Students can organize any type of content—videos, links, documents, or pictures. This free online binder also encourages collaboration and sharing via a link.

▶ http://www.livebinders.com/welcome/education

Pinterest

Students can "pin" their favorite media content on this online bulletin board for others to enjoy.

▶ https://www.pinterest.com/

Scoop.it

Students can compile and publish all types of media content with this free tool.

▶ http://www.scoop.it/

PRESENTATION TOOLS

When students learn something new, they like to share their knowledge and ideas. A presentation about a book students have read is one way they can share and teach others. These tools make presentations interesting for the learners.

PowerPoint

For slideshow presentations, PowerPoint is a classic that can be used with all devices. Students can choose from a multitude of design templates on which they can attach images, text, and videos.

▶ http://products.office.com/en-us/powerpoint

Prezi

Using a variety of templates, students can easily present all types of media content with this cloud-based presentation tool.

▶ http://prezi.com/

ONLINE BOOKLET AND BOOK CREATORS

Doing additional research to create brochures, fliers, catalogs, and books related to what a student is reading can be a fun way to connect to text, analyze it, and refine media literacy skills during the research process. The following tools allow students to produce professional-looking products.

Simplebooklet

With this free web-based tool, students can create and publish brochures, fliers, and catalogs.

▶ https://simplebooklet.com/

Storyjumper

This free, web-based tool provides templates for students to use in creating and publishing their own books.

▶ http://www.storyjumper.com/

Zooburst

Using a laptop or an iPad, students can create 3D pop-up books. The first ten books are free. They can use their own artwork or a database of 10,000 images.

▶ http://www.zooburst.com/

GAME CREATORS

Want to encourage video game lovers to read? Tell them they can create a video game based on a book while they are reading it. These tools make video game creation easy, so students still spend most of the time with their eyes on text.

Game Salad Creator

The drag and drop feature allows students to create games quickly. Students can create games on Apple devices and then publish them on the app store.

▶ http://gamesalad.com/creator

Pixel Press

For this game creator, students draw their games and then capture the drawings with a device. Next, they design, test, and share their games.

▶ http://projectpixelpress.com/

TIPS FOR CREATING FLIPPED MINI-LESSONS

1. Start with what skill you want students to master. You might refer to the list of what skilled readers do on pages 39 and 40 of The Flipped Reading Block: Making It Work.
2. Create a student learning objective aligned with the skill. Here are some ways to share the learning objective with students:
   ▶ Embed the objective into the flipped mini-lesson.
   ▶ Introduce the learning objective in the online classroom before providing the link to the flipped mini-lesson.
   ▶ Introduce the learning objective in class before assigning the flipped mini-lesson.
   ▶ Ask students to write the learning objective on the top of the page on which they will take guided notes on the flipped mini-lesson.
3. Think aloud while reading and reflecting on reading. Let readers hear the thoughts in your head while you are reading so that they can understand what it means to interact with text.
4. Emphasize the "mini" in mini-lessons. Keep the lessons short. Three to six minutes should be just right.
5. Hold students accountable for watching the mini-lessons. You might:
   ▶ Ask them to reflect on what they see through guided note-taking.
   ▶ Practice the skill right after watching the lesson.
   ▶ Give a short quiz on the mini-lesson.
6. Continue to reinforce the skill learned through the flipped mini-lesson with in-class activities that align with the lesson.

Best wishes for success in your flipped reading block!