



Teachers' 10 Qs for Using Web 2.0 Tools

To use the cool, collaborative, and creative tools of web 2.0, you need to know your school's **Acceptable Use Policy** and other practices. Circle your school's answers to these important questions. If you are not sure whom to ask, start with your principal. You may find that more than one answer applies. See more ideas at the *Spanning the Gap* blog at <http://blog.teachersfirst.com/necc2008/>.

	Question	Circle the response or responses to describe YOUR school situation				
1	Are students allowed to access personal email at school? (Some sites require email and validation to join)	No	Yes, if it is for curriculum-related purposes.	Yes, if it is a sub-account of a teacher account, such as a Gmail teacher account with subaccounts for students.	Yes, but it is difficult to see what students are doing on their email.	
2	If not, does the school provide student-accessible email?	No	Yes, through a special contractor (Ex. Gaggle or ePals) who provides controlled email and archiving for the school/district.	Yes, but only for a whole-class account monitored and controlled by the teacher (Ex. an account for Ms.Smithclass@school.org).	Yes, but only if the teacher pastes the student writing into the teacher's own outgoing email, controlling and screening all emails in and out.	
3	Are students allowed to post their own work (writing, images, etc) to the web?	No	Yes, but wise teachers will reinforce web safety concepts before permitting this in class or for school assignments.	Yes, with written parent permission and anonymous.	Yes, as long as it is anonymous/shows only first name/shows only student initials.	
4	Are students allowed to set up personal accounts on web sites? (Ex. blog sites, Flickr, etc.)	No	Yes, but wise teachers will reinforce web safety concepts before permitting this in class or for school assignments.	Yes, if the accounts are teacher-managed from an administrative panel or moderation system provided by the online tool/website. Ex. Classblogmeister, Learnerblogs, TRintuition workbench, or wikispaces.	Yes, but the teacher must have a written record of all usernames, email accounts, and passwords used by his/her students	Yes, but only if the account is established from home with written parent permission.
5	If no to #4, may a teacher set up a whole class account or group of teacher-controlled accounts on a web-based tool for students to use in class?	No	Yes, if the teacher monitors all activity on these accounts and is able to trace which students did which work on the tool/web site. Ex. the site records the date and time work is done and work can be moderated by the teacher for these accounts.	Yes, but the tool must be operated only by the teacher as a whole class or directly-supervised activity (such as by students on an interactive whiteboard)	Yes, but only for a limited time or pilot activity.	
6	Does the school email	No. I	Yes, if the teacher requests	Yes, but they are usually	I have not tested this yet, but	

	system allow automated “activation” emails to make it to your teacher email account? (If you join a site but activation emails are blocked, you may not be able to actually use the membership!)	tested on the site I wanted to join, and it did not work!	that a specific email domain be unblocked. This may take several days/weeks.	sent to the teacher’s Junk Mail folder	I will!	
7	Does the school permit collaboration with people outside of the school, such as partnering with other schools or inviting comments from the general public, outside experts, etc.?	No	Yes, but wise teachers will reinforce web safety concepts before permitting this in class or for school assignments.	Yes, if the collaboration is set up by the tools, such as an education-oriented project.	Yes, if the collaboration is with a known person or institution, such as another class in a different state or country. The teacher must verify that the collaboration contact is safe and truthfully represented.	
8	Does school policy permit access to sites that draw a lot of “bandwidth,” i.e. require a lot of network time to load, such as video streaming, Google Earth, and other sites that draw heavily on the Internet connection?	No. These sites are usually blocked.	Yes.	Yes and no. A teacher may access them by requesting it in advance and only on a single computer per classroom.	Yes, for a limited time or a pilot activity.	Yes, but only a specific video or URL may be requested, not access to the full site.
9	Does the school keep a central file or database on which students have parent permissions, such as to post work to the web?	No	Yes, but it is in a filing cabinet in the office.	Yes, in an online database a teacher can check from any classroom or school computer.	No, but school policy is to assume that all students have permission unless otherwise notified by parents. This “list” of non-permitted students is in the office.	
10	Is there a technology facilitator to help a teacher determine the safety concerns or barriers to any given web2.0 tool and suggest how to solve these issues so it can be used by students or teacher?	No	Yes, but who is it?	Yes, but he/she is very busy.	Yes, and he/she is the one who shared this list with me!	