




Collaborative Writing Tools

[Blogs](#)
[Collaborative Documents](#)
[Wikis](#)



NOTE: This icon means the Web site has no age restrictions, and the tool is appropriate for younger students. Other tools may be appropriate for elementary grade use with the teacher's facilitation.


Blogs

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
Blogger*	www.blogger.com/start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can have multiple authors. • Can be public or private for designated users. • Can post to blog from cell phone. • Available in 41 languages. • 1 GB of free storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a Google* account. • Photos are automatically hosted in a Picasa* account. 	✓	✓		Of "legal age to form a binding contract."	
Edublogs* 	http://edublogs.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed for educators and students. • Privacy and access controlled. • Can also create Web pages linked from blog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 MB of storage is small in comparison to other sites. 	Ad-free on paid version only.	✓	✓ Designed for education.	✓	No e-mail on paid version only—create 15 student accounts at a time under

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 MB of free storage. 						teacher account.
LiveJournal*	www.livejournal.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can create posts that are friends-only, private, or public. Can post to blog from cell phone. Can turn the journal into a bookstore-quality book with cost. Can create and join specific communities. Can record a "voice" post and create a podcast. Can create photo galleries and "scrapbooks." 1 GB of free storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can search for blogs by school when affiliated. 	Ads are said to be appropriate for all ages.	✓		Users under 13 years old are required to have a parent or guardian review and complete the registration process.	
WordPress*	http://wordpress.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can have multiple authors. Can be public or private for designated users. Nice themes. Easy slideshows. Can create Web pages. 3 GB of free storage. 			✓		Must be at least 13 years old.	

[Return to top](#)

Collaborative Documents



Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
Google docs*	http://docs.google.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, form/survey creator, and many other applications. Can share and concurrently edit files. 1 GB of free storage. Can upload any file—even those that you cannot edit online. Can provide just a link to share a file—no need for log in if users only view files. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators must have valid e-mail addresses. 	✓	✓		Of “legal age to form a binding contract.”	
j2e* 	www.j2e.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers word processor, desktop publisher, Web page creator, form creator, and drawing pad. Can share and concurrently edit files. 50 MB of free storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not as intuitive to use as other collaborative document sites. To start, select Start j2e. Register when you save the file. No spreadsheet or presentation 	✓	✓	✓ Designed for education.	✓	

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No minimum age requirement. 	file types.					
ThinkFree*	http://member.thinkfree.com/member/goLandingPage.action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes both a Web version and a downloadable version to create, share, and sync up documents, forms, portfolios, spreadsheets, and presentations. Provides 1 GB of online storage. Includes project and task areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No concurrent editing. 	✓	✓		Must be at least 13 years old.	
Zoho*	www.zoho.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers word processor, spreadsheet, presentation, note taker, and many other applications. Can share and concurrently edit files. Can access and edit existing documents without an Internet connection and synchronize the modified documents later with the online versions. Can integrate chat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators must have valid e-mail addresses. 	✓	✓		Must be at least 13 years old.	

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
		within Zoho Show (presentations) to have enhanced participation with collaborators or audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently no file storage limits, but will be 1 GB in the future.						

[Return to top](#)

Wikis

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
Google Sites*	http://sites.google.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with other Google tools, such as Google Calendar*. Public or private pages. 100 MB maximum site size. Unlimited pages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators must have valid e-mail addresses. Not as easily collaborative or transparent as a true wiki. 	✓	✓		Of “legal age to form a binding contract.”	
PBworks* 	http://pbworks.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom accounts allow student accounts without e-mail. Public or private. Create as many workspaces (wikis) as needed. 2 GB of free storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available in languages other than English. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wikispaces* 	www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily add student accounts that do not require e-mail addresses. Can create public or private wikis. No indication of age requirements. Discussion forums. Unlimited pages and discussions. 2 GB of free storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A little cumbersome to use. 	✓ Ad-free when signing up for the free “K- 12 teacher” account.	✓	✓	✓	✓ Send an Excel* or .csv file with user names and passwords. E-mail addresses are not required to create accounts.

Name	URL	Strengths	Weaknesses/ Considerations	Ad-Free	Student Privacy Maintained	Educator Version Available	Available for All Ages	Does Not Require Student E-mail
Zoho Wiki*	http://wiki.zoho.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can have 2 free wikis with 50 MB each.• Can create groups.• Can set wiki or page level permissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborators must have valid e-mail addresses.	✓	✓		Must be at least 13 years old.	

[Return to top](#)