



WEB UTILIZATION STRATEGIES

Purposeful Use — When planning your use of the Web in a lesson, ask yourself specific questions — will the Web allow students to learn something they otherwise will not? If no, will it allow them to learn something in a more compelling way? In other words, will it have more impact than other technology options?

Pre-visit — Just as with video, always preview sites and become familiar with their basic content. Some sites are portals to other sites; some are interactive “packages” of activities and information; some are educationally sound and information rich; others are commercial and wish to sell something.

Guide Student Surfing

- 1. Bookmarking sites**, either on the student’s computer or through a web based services such as Portaportal, provides a list of URLs for students to visit.
- 2. Use the projector** and instructor station to take students on a tour of sites you wish them to travel.
- 3. Limit Student Time on the Web** — Require students to evaluate and prioritize the length of time spent on the computer versus other activities. This is good experience for them, especially given the tendency to get so far away from the original topic through active links on pages. Also, depending upon the ratio of computers to students, time limitations will allow for equal chance for all students to access the Web sites you’ve assigned.

All of these are ways to guide students through their Internet experience and assure that they remain focused on their task.

Supervision is important when students are using the Web, regardless of their age or experience. Help students to develop their own filtering abilities by teaching them to evaluate sites for efficacy and educational value. Most school divisions have an AUP (Acceptable Use Policy). Become familiar with yours and help students to practice appropriate uses of the Web in school.

Focus, Activity, Follow-Up (FAF) —

- 1. Focus** your students by providing them a purpose for their Web experience.
- 2. The Activity** can then be performed by students that understand what they are trying to learn.
- 3. Follow-up** the Web activity with questions and/or tasks that help them to expand upon, evaluate, or test out what they have done on the Web.

Higher Level Uses — There are many other ways to use the internet, other than for research. By using the higher level uses of the web, students are able to get more out of their internet experience, thus improving student learning. High level uses include Keypals, electronic field trips, interactive websites, classroom collaboration, electronic publishing, simulation and social action projects.