Skype

By Doug Aamoth Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011BACKNEXTView All

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Add to my:del.icio.usTechnoratiredditGoogle BookmarksMixxStumbleUponBlog this on:TypePadLiveJournalBloggerWordPressMySpace..Skype uses your phone's data connection to make free calls to other Skype users. And unlike Apple's FaceTime video chatting feature that only works on Wi-Fi networks, Skype users can video chat with each other over a 3G connection. Add in low-cost international calling plans, built-in instant messaging functions, and CD-quality voice transmission and you've got this whole communication thing covered from just about every angle.

Foursquare

By Megan Friedman Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011BACKNEXTView All

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Add to my:del.icio.usTechnoratiredditGoogle BookmarksMixxStumbleUponBlog this on:TypePadLiveJournalBloggerWordPressMySpace. .With Foursquare, it's all about community. Let Foursquare know you're at your favorite pizza place and the app will load tips from other users, or alert you to other Foursquarers currently in the joint. Check in to a location often enough and you're dubbed the "mayor," an honor that sometimes comes with discounts. Location-based social media is currently all the rage, with players such as Gowalla and Facebook Places also competing for users. But with five million registered users, Foursquare still dominates.

**Free Shipping Day 2011**  
On Friday, December 16, more than 2,000 participating merchants will offer free shipping with delivery by Christmas Eve in the continental United States.

**4.** [**Edmodo**](http://www.edmodo.com/)

Twitter is actually a great tool for use in the classroom, but unfortunately, because it is also a great tool for goofing off many schools have it blocked. Further, because it is a public network, there are serious privacy considerations involved when using Twitter with students. Edmodo, however, is something like Twitter, but designed specifically for use in a classroom setting, which makes it safer, more secure, and have more utility for teachers overall. Edmodo offers microblogging, link and file sharing, inline replies, a class calendar, and assignments and grading functions all in a Twitter-like package built with the classroom in mind.

[**DOC Cop**](http://www.doccop.com/)

While the web may have made it easier for students to copy other people’s writing, it also has made it easier for teachers to test student work against a corpus of preexisting material to catch plagiarizers. One way to do that is to search for suspicious sentences in Google and do the detective work yourself. Another way to go about testing for plagiarism is to use a free web-based tool like DOC Cop, which does the heavy lifting for you and emails you a report indicating how much of the document may have been copied and where the copied lines may have originated.

Also check out [Plagiarism Detect](http://www.plagiarismdetect.com/) and [WriteCheck](http://writecheck.turnitin.com/) for more robust detection.

**10.** [**TeacherTube**](http://www.teachertube.com/)

TeacherTube started out as YouTube for teachers, with the idea that video was a great resource for use in the classroom but YouTube was a little hard to sift through to find the best educational content. However, the site now also includes document, photo, and audio sharing in addition to video. For educators, TeacherTube is a great resource for finding educational videos for use in the classroom, or lesson plan ideas and tutorials from other teachers.

**.** [**SchoolRack**](http://www.schoolrack.com/)

SchoolRack is a free application for teachers to create classroom web sites. Using these class portals, teachers can interact with students and parents, post, collect, and grade assignments, communicate via mailing lists and private discussion boards, and send private messages to students.

[**Curriki**](http://www.curriki.org/)

Curriki is a collaborative project bringing educators together to share curricula with one another. Teachers use the site, which is unsurprisingly wiki-based, to share educator resources such as lesson plans, handouts, templates, and study guides. Though it takes some getting used to, Curriki is a great resource for teachers who need ideas for classroom activities

**5.** [**Shmoop**](http://www.shmoop.com/teachers/)

Shmoop may have a really silly name, but it is actually an incredibly useful tool for educators, especially those working in a liberal arts setting. Shmoop offers study guides for literature, US history, poetry, and civics, as well as biographies of famous people. But what sets Shmoop apart from sites like [Sparknotes](http://www.sparknotes.com/) is that the guides are written with kids in mind. Each guide is written with a down-to-earth, irreverent wittiness full of pop culture references that make the subjects more easy to grasp and more enjoyable for students.

Shmoop guides are written by mostly Masters and Ph.D. level college graduates from top Universities (two-thirds from Stanford, UC Berkeley, or Harvard), 91% of whom have taught at the high school or college level. Teachers can develop lesson plans around Shmoop content as a way to help digital age students connect with classic content.

**6.** [**Footnote**](http://www.footnote.com/)

Another great content resource for educators is Footnote. Footnote is a collection of over **58 million** original historical documents that history teachers can use to make history seem more real. What better way to connect students to something that happened a hundred and fifty years ago than to let them actually explore documents and original sources from that time? Users of Footnote can also annotate documents, to help others better understand them. Why not put students to work annotating historical documents to help them even better connect with history?

Educators will also want to check out [Flickr: The Commons](http://www.flickr.com/commons/), a vast and growing collection of public photography archives from The Library of Congress, The Smithsonian, the Powerhouse Museum, the George Eastman House, Oregon State University, the National Galleries of Scotland, and many more.