

# Posterous and a Pen Pal!

Grades 3-4

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>Posterous can be a great tool to show students how they can connect to other students around the United States. With the help of Posterous students can blog with someone in another state about school and become a safe, educational pen pal. Through this students will improve their knowledge of the United States and also improve their writing and interacting skills.</p>
<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>Following this activity students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel comfortable using Posterous and the blog functions</li> <li>• Learn about another student's state and life</li> <li>• Improve their writing skills</li> <li>• Make a formal presentation to the class about the information they learn (optional)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Standards</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Standard 4: WRITING: Process</b></p> <p>The writing process includes prewriting, drafting, editing, and revising. Students progress through these stages to write clear, coherent, and focused paragraphs and essays.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Standard 6: WRITING: English Language Conventions</b></p> <p>Conventions include the grade-level-appropriate mechanics of writing, such as penmanship, spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure, and manuscript form.</p>
<p><b>Materials</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Computer, Internet access</p>
<p><b>Procedure</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each student will create their own Posterous page.</li> <li>2. Assign each student to another student from a different location in the United States.</li> <li>3. Explain to the students what an appropriate post on Posterous is and show them how to introduce themselves.</li> <li>4. Have the students think of questions they want to learn from the other student. (Examples: What does it look like in your state? What do you like to do? What is your favorite subject? What is your favorite thing about the</li> </ol>

	<p>state you live in? Have you traveled very much? etc.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Have the students post weekly to the other student and have them continue this throughout the year.</li><li>6. If you want this project to go further, you could have the students make a presentation about their pen pal and the state that they are from and share it with the class.</li></ol>
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p>	<p>The instructor can easily check each student's blog to see if he or she has submitted a post each week. The content can be checked to make sure it is appropriate and a final project involving a presentation can check to make sure the students learned about their pen pal's state.</p> <p><b>100% of the students felt connected and comfortable using Posterous after this activity and made a new friend in the process. ☺</b></p>