

Parts of the Cell – Learning through Blogging

Grades 5-8

Overview	The teacher will assign each part of the cell to each group of students. Each group will then create a blog using Windows Live Writer to keep track of the information that they find. After completing the blog, each group will then give a presentation to the class to show the information that they learned.
Objective	Given a section of the cell, student groups should be able to accurately describe each section of the cell utilizing the team's blog.
Standards	ISTE: 1, 2, 3
Materials	Minimum of 1 computer per group of students. Windows Live Writer installed on each machine.
Procedure	<p>A. Pre-Activity Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WLW should be installed before beginning the activity; if it is not, install it or get your technology supervisor to assist you in installing it.2. Also, before beginning the activity, the teacher should create a blog for each group. <p>B. Collect Clues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Form groups out of the students.2. Randomly assign each group one part of the cell (more can be assigned to one group if there are not enough groups to take all parts) and then tell them that today they will be looking for information on the internet and using a blog to keep track of the information that they find.3. Instruct each group in how to use WLW and how to post information and pictures to their blogs.4. Instruct each group on how to properly use a search engine, such as Google or Wikipedia, to find the information that they are looking for.5. Allow each group to assemble and use the computers.6. While students are working on the assignment, students should be supervised to ensure that inappropriate materials are not opened. <p>C. Finishing the Activity (Assessment)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Once the groups have finished, tell the students that now they will need to work as a group to present the information that they found to the class.2. Allow the students enough time to prepare a short presentation that will be about 2-5 minutes long.3. Students should be assessed as a group on how accurately they talk about each section of the cell. Points should be deducted for inaccurate or inadequate information.<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Students should be able to answer the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where is this section located at?2. What does it do in relation to the rest of the cell?