Windows Live Writer is, simply put, a new Web 2.0 version of a word processor. Like Word, users do not need to be on the Internet while they write, format, or design their page. Windows Live Writer allows users to crop pictures, layout text and images, and virtually create anything they could create in Word, but with the added ability to post it directly to any compatible blog website.

The application called Windows Live Writer was initially created by Joseph (J.J) Allaire. In 1995 Joseph and his bother Jeremy Allaire founded Allaire Corporation. Also Joseph Allaire was the founder of companies such as ColdFusion and Homesite before starting his latest company called Onfolio. Through Onfolio, which specialized in publishing tools, he developed a program called Onfolio Publisher. Microsoft bought the Onfolio company and what was formerly known as Onfolio Publisher was converted and changed into the product of today, Windows Live Writer or WLW.[1]

Windows Live Writer allows users to generate their own programmed content for Windows Live Writer. Users can develop plug-ins, which allow other programs to run through Windows Live Writer.[3] For example, Justin Braun developed the “Insert File Program” for Windows Live Writer, which allows a user to insert files into their post.[4] Plug-ins can be downloaded from the web and most are free.
II. What is the Purpose of Windows Live Writer?

The purpose of Windows Live Writer is to give users the ability to design the layout of text, pictures, videos, etc. they wish to post on the Internet. Because it works with many blog services, including Blogger, TypePad, LiveJournal, and WordPress, Windows Live Writer is a processor designed to make sharing information easier no matter what service one is using to publish onto the web. Joseph (J.J.) Allaire, WLW's main architect, suggested, "It's targeted right now at weblogs, but there's an awful lot of other environments where users are authoring content for the web ... we want to do a really killer job with weblogs right up front but there's lots of sorts of scenarios for content publishing that we also want to support." Although most users are currently using the processor for blogging, its main intent is to give users as many options as possible for sharing information. For example, WLW allows users to publish videos, pictures, text, and audio clips to the web. Another way Windows Live Writer makes blogging easier is by allowing users to create their blog while offline. This is similar to using Microsoft Outlook, an e-mail server that allows users to write their e-mails before logging onto the Internet to send them.

Additionally, Windows Live Writer was designed with the common user in mind. With the idea that all users should be able to generate content for the web, WLW is designed to look and be used much like other word processors, specifically a big-brother program, Microsoft Word. The layout the user designs will appear on the web exactly as it does on the page; thus the user need not know any HTML or other programming language. This idea has been called What You See Is What You Get publishing, or WYSIWYG for short. Therefore, any user who can drag and drop text, copy and paste links, and move photos in a Word document can essentially make a web post by using Windows Live Writer.

III. What are Some Unique Ways of Using Windows Live Writer?
Windows Live Writer is an application that can be used in several unique ways. The program is most commonly used to create, format, and edit blog posts that will be posted on the internet. With all of the effective and distinctive features Windows Live Writer entails, it is easy to see how it could be used outside of this realm. WLW can be used to create aesthetically pleasing photo albums. Its applications allow users to create a collage of images that resemble a scrapbook. When working with the pictures, users can resize, add a watermark, and change the hues. This allows a great deal of individuality and creativity to be expressed. Now instead of hunting through closets for old photo albums, users of WLW are able to view their family memories at the click of a button.

As mentioned, this application can be used in the educational realm. A teacher could use WLW to make his weekly newsletter available to students and parents. The teacher could also use Windows Live Writer to display pictures of class projects, parties, and field trips.

Windows Live Writer contains a program called Live Spaces. This social networking site is similar to Facebook and is completely safe to use. It is a visually appealing and interconnected program that allows users to write, journal, post pictures, and keep in touch with family and friends. An advantage to Windows Live Writer is that it is "easier to manage blogs through the one tool instead of having to sign in and use multiple tools from many Blogging platforms that can be confusing to manage." Because of this feature, WLW is a great tool for first time bloggers! WLW allows members to customize their blogs, journals, pictures, and videos to be more similar to the individual's unique personality. Photo Gallery and Movie Maker are programs that can edit your pictures and videos. From there, uploading these items (photos and videos) is simple and user-friendly, should the user choose to post them to the web. Users also have the option to send these pictures to friends through e-mail. Windows Live Writer also gives the computer user access to instant messaging. Hotmail, g-mail, and others. Accounts are brought together within this program in order for easier and more organized access to a user's various e-mail accounts. Web browsing in Windows Live Writer is equipped with an item called Family Safety. This helps parents or guardians keep their children safer when they are online. "With Family Safety, you decide how your kids experience the Internet. You can limit searches, block or allow websites, decide who your kids can communicate with when they're using Windows Live Messenger, Hotmail, or Spaces and monitor what websites they're visiting." Also during web browsing, there is a tool called Toolbar, which allows users to quickly find what they need by customizing their browser.
IV. What are Some Examples of Windows Live Writer Being Used to Illustrate its Current Educational Value or Potential Value?

Networking is one of many examples of Windows Live Writer being used to illustrate its current potential value. In the past year, the use of social networking websites (such as Facebook and MySpace) has skyrocketed. Facebook has "more than 800 million active users, more than half of its users log on to Facebook in any given day, on average, more than 250 million photos are uploaded per day, and 75% of users are outside the U.S." [12] These shocking figures show that people enjoy communicating, keeping in touch with friends, and publishing their own photos and stories about their life. Windows Live Writer can make this easier for anyone who publishes a blog and even enhance the content of their blog. It allows the user to edit and enhance pictures and videos, making them even better before they are uploaded. [13]

Windows Live Writer also allows a user to easily set up a blog if they don’t already have one. Furthermore, users can easily upload photos directly to their site or embed uploaded videos instantly. Windows Live Writer is yet another way to enhance communication and networking within countries, neighbors, and long distance friends.

Another example of Windows Live Writer being used to illustrate its current educational value is its ability to inform parents. Teachers could create separate blogs for each of their classrooms so that parents could follow just their student's class and see what their child is doing each day at school. Parents could see photos and videos of the classroom interaction and be able to comment. Windows Live Writer is particularly useful in this way because, should a teacher want to post the same thing to multiple classrooms' blogs, they could do so without any difficulty. Blogs can also be used by the students. They could do blogs commenting on various current events or social issues. A teacher could give a question for his or her class to respond to electronically through each individual blog. These questions could deal with the themes of the unit being taught. Students can then express their personal ideas by publishing a blog for other students to read and reflect upon. A blog is a great tool for a student who prefers using the computer to communicate, as opposed to traditional oral or written methods. It also allows kids to "think and discuss something academically" [14] in a less pressured, informal way.

This new application can also be used by high school students or even college level students to connect with students from other schools, states, or even countries. For example, students would have a "pen pal" across the country or across the world that students have to keep in contact or even collaborate with on a project. They would use Live Writer to post blogs, pictures, and/or maps which would prove to be an instructional activity more helpful and interactive than mail, whether electronic or written.

V. How Does Windows Live Writer Work? What Does One Have to Do to Start Using Windows Live Writer?

In order to begin using Windows Live Writer (WLW), one simply has to download the software by clicking the download button on Windows Live Writer's website. However, if one has a Mac, they will not be able to download this program because it is not compatible. In order for Windows Live Writer to be
compatible with your computer, the computer must meet specific requirements in its operating system, processor, memory, resolution, internet connection, browser, and graphics or video card. Additionally, as soon as the computer user clicks the download button, it automatically means that the user is agreeing to the "Microsoft service agreement and privacy statement."

To complete the download process, the user must connect WLW to a current blogging system. These compatible systems include Blogger, Wordpress, TypePad, and LiveJournal. [10] If the user has not yet established a blog with one of these systems, they can create one in Windows Live. Following the prompts will walk the user through this process with clear instructions. Once a connection has been made, the user is ready to create, edit, and post using WLW. [13]

Microsoft Windows Live Writer works in a way that makes it much easier to share videos and photos on many various blogs. For photos, one can use many tools for editing. The user can add borders and effects or put them into an album with a unique style. The user of the computer simply has to click and Windows Live Writer does all the work. It automatically saves and links photos and videos to the user's blog. For videos, Windows Live Writer makes uploading easy. The upload is quick and instantly "embeds [the videos] in your blog." Just as the user can do with photos, the user can also edit these videos. Videos can be resized, aligned, and captioned to be customized just the way the user would like them to be. This site also incorporates many plug-ins in the case that the user would like to add even more to their blog from other websites (such as Facebook, Flickr, etc...).

This program has WYSIWYG authoring, which stands for What You See Is What You Get. It also has map publishing. It is available in 6 different languages so that it can be used by all and it maximizes functionality.

[13]

How does one use Windows Live Writer to add a post on one's blog?
1. Choose the blog you want to post to: Live Spaces, Sharepoint blog, or any other compatible blog service.
2. Type in your blog address (URL), account name, and passport from any of the blog services into WLW so it logs in and detects what you've posted.
3. Confirm or modify your blog name.
4. Start writing, adding pictures or files into your blog posts.
5. Finish. [8]

Below is a Windows Live Writer tutorial video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39AwYzPz_BU

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VI. How is Windows Live Writer Related to Other Applications?
Windows Live Writer is similar to other applications including Blogger, LiveJournal, and Typepad. Blogger is a site which states the main goal as giving people a voice on the web. When comparing Windows Live Writer to Blogger, Windows Live Writer has many advantages. Blogger is available in 41 languages, whereas Windows Live Writer is available in 48. Blogger was created in 1999 and is a much older application compared to WLW, which was developed in late 2006. Blogger has a website that is geared towards bringing people together; it shows off the fact that there is group blogging, third-body applications, and feedback from readers. Windows Live Writer boasts more about its offers of inline spell checking, automatic synchronization, and Windows Live Gallery integration. LiveJournal, an application that allows people to talk about current events with journalists from international newspapers, is offered in 32 languages. And finally, in reference to cost, the site Typepad offers a free 14 day trial, but to continue use users must pay a registration fee. WLW is a free application.

Typical applications include the same basic features, including video and picture posting. Most applications require one to have a user name and password, Windows Live Writer requires the same thing. Windows Live Writer is similar to many other applications but qualities that make WLW unique include the fact that it is free and frequently updated. WLW continually adjusts the program based off of user feedback. Since WLW is newer than many other applications, it is compatible with many other applications for the ease of sharing and creating blogs. Because Windows Live Writer gets updated so frequently, it continues to make adjustments to have a slight edge over other applications. Its most recent update is the option of inserting Twitter and Flickr applications.

Windows Live Writer, as a workspace for polishing and eventually publishing blogs, by its very nature must be able to smoothly interact with other applications. Windows Live Writer interacts with other applications in two basic ways; its primary interaction is with a blog hosting website such as Windows Live Spaces, Blogger, Wordpress, Typepad, LiveJournal, or many other such websites. The essential factor of this smooth interaction between a user's writing, formatting, and posting of a blog is a structured data format called WYSIWYG. The structured data format allows Windows Live Writer to send a written blog to a host website in a sort of code that the host website can then convert into the blog post that users see online. Any blog hosting website capable of interpreting this data structure can interact with Windows Live Writer, making it easy for users to write and format a blog post only once and post it to several different blogs, even on different websites.

Secondly, Windows Live Writer can interact with third party applications by way of plug-ins. Plug-ins have been made for many applications, including Twitter, Flickr, and Eventful.com. The way that WLW interacts with each plug-in is different depending on the plug-in; for example, the Twitter plug-in allows users to immediately make a Twitter post, called a Tweet, whenever they post to their blog. Another example of a plug-in is the Eventful.com plug-in that lets bloggers search through Eventful.com's online listings of events and automatically copy event information into their blog, including a link to the event's description on Eventful.com. The plug-in functions are as interesting and diverse as the applications they serve to connect with.

Windows Live Writer is making great strides towards further "wiring the web" together through both its primary and secondary interaction with various applications. Further interaction between WLW and exciting new web 2.0 applications is sure to come, perhaps eventually making Windows Live Writer a must-have for not only the blog-savvy voice of the web but also the average user interested in listening.

VII. What are the New Features for Windows Live Writer 2011?

Take a look at the following site to view changes made to Windows Live Writer as of 2011:
VIII. How is Windows Live Writer Used in Beijing, China?

Although the concept of Windows Live Writer is the same in China, there are several aspects that make it different. In China, one has to download a different version of Windows Live Writer so that Chinese characters are available. Additionally, Microsoft has launched an anti-piracy tool in China that specifically targets computers in Beijing and verifies that computers have genuine Microsoft software installed. This is because many people in China make use of pirated copies of Microsoft software to avoid the high cost of genuine software. Others were simply downloading Windows Live Writer to use as a word processor instead of buying the actual word processing software, Microsoft Word. All Windows programs are now following a "Windows Genuine Advantage" program that will turn the computer screen completely black if the software is not genuine. This is happening because of China's piracy problems. There are about 200 million computers in China with piracy problems, prompting Microsoft to fight back.

Many people in Beijing believe this is a violation of their rights. An angry citizen from China asked the question, "If, when I'm programming, the computer screen goes black, that will probably cause some important information to be lost. Who will pay me for my loss then?" Microsoft has responded to the upset citizens by defending their programs because of a "commitment to help protect its intellectual property and to help you avoid problems before they happen. The purpose ... is to help our customers to determine (whether or not) genuine software is installed on their computers."[19] Microsoft, which owns and operates Windows Live Writer, has yet to launch this anti-piracy software in America, therefore Windows Live Writer may be harder to use in China than in the United States. That being said, there are other programs being blocked in China, including Blog Spot, causing many people from that website to try and move to Windows Live Writer to post their blogs. Many Blog Spot users in Beijing find it difficult uploading images (tool is blocked) and responding to comments. Even though there is a piracy problem in China with Microsoft trying to stop it, people still want to blog and if it is the only way they can, they will move to Windows Live Writer and download it illegally, causing the piracy problem to continue.[16]

Another reason as to why Windows Live Writer is not as easily accessed in China is because most of the Chinese blogs do not release their APIs because they don't want users to take advantage of their platform resources. An application programming interface (API) is a set of routines, datastructures, object classes and/or protocols provided by libraries and/or operating system services in order to support the building of applications.[27] But many Chinese blog services refuse to open their APIs stating business security as a major concern. Once they do open the APIs to the public, the number of external applications will dramatically increase, even some external applications with rather similar functions will be all attached to businesses own servers. This will seriously effect the efficiency of servers and speed of response, leave users bad images, and then encroach the interests of the business. But Windows Live Writer only makes use of blog website's APIs to facilitate many of its functions.[11] Microsoft presents the situation on their page, "Windows Live Writer includes an application API that external applications can use to launch Writer in order to create new posts, to open existing posts, and..."
To support ‘Blog This’ operations for various content types including links, snippets, images, and feed items.” Without access to a website’s API, WLW cannot take advantage of the features that make it unique. This hardly helps WLW develop its market in China.[19]

The following is an in class survey our partners from Beijing prepared. Leilei and Xiaoquing asked their class what they thought of Windows Live Writer.

"An In-class Survey on Using Windows Live Writer"
Methods of the survey: An In-class Questionnaire. Objects of the survey: 20 first-year graduate students, Beijing Normal University.

1. Do you write blogs?
   A) Yes
   B) No
   - 17 out of 20 people said “yes”.
   - 3 out of 20 people said “no”.

2. Which blog platform do you use?
   A) Professional Blog Site (Sina Blogs, BlogBus, My Space, etc.)
   B) Independent Domain name blogs (Wordpress, etc.)
   C) Non-Professional Blog Services (QQZone, Facebook, etc.)
   D) At least two sites from choices A, B, and C.
   - 9 out of 20 people chose “Non-Professional Blog Services”.
   - 5 out of 20 people chose “Professional Blog Site”.
   - 4 out of 20 people chose “At least two sites from choices A, B, and C”.
   - 2 out of 20 people chose “Independent Domain name blogs”.

3. What do you write on your blogs?
   A) Record Daily Life and Emotions
   B) Editorial
   C) Collect Useful Information
   D) Commercial Propaganda
   E) Other Topic
   - 16 out of 20 people chose “Record Daily Life and Emotions”.
   - 2 out of 20 students chose “Collect Useful Information”.
   - 1 out of 20 people chose “Editorial”.
   - 1 out of 20 people chose “Other Topic”.

4. Have you ever used any type of off-line blog publisher?
   - 1 out 20 people said they use “JuZiyue”, (similar software used in China).
   - 1 out of 20 people said they use “Blogthis”.
   - 1 out of 20 people said they use “Live Writer”.
   - 17 out of 20 people said they do not use a different type of off-line blog publisher.

5. Have you ever heard of Live Spaces or Live Writer?
   A) Yes, Both
   B) Only Live Spaces
   C) Only Live Writer
   D) Neither
   - 9 out of 20 people said “Yes, Both”.
According to our investigation, most students are familiar with Windows Live Writer, although many do not use it often.

Below is a comment from Xiao Yang, who began to use Windows Live Writer two years ago.

"Since, I am working close to computers every day, I saw the need for having some of my most important files on the cloud. So, I started to explore the Sky-drive feature from Windows-Live. It offers you 25 GB of online storage for free. When I went to the home page, I found many other interesting applications. Most of you must be using these applications by now. One such useful application, is the Windows Live Writer. This post is being written using the windows live writer application. You can use it to post simultaneously on different blogs of yours, and create posts more effectively with the different tools and plug-ins available. Just check out the album I created using the application. You can find my art and my photography in the album. You can even integrate different blogs from Blogger, Wordpress or any other blog provider."

IX. What are Some Lesson Plans That Can Incorporate Windows Live Writer?

Elementary Education

Lesson Plan #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exploring Animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Standards** | 4.2.6: Support statements with facts found in print and electronic media, identify the sources used, and expect others to do the same.  
K.4.1: Give examples of plants and animals.  
1.2.7: Write brief informational descriptions of a real object, person, place, or event using information from observations. |
| **Material** | • Windows Live Writer  
• Computer with Internet access |
| **Procedure** | • Greet students and ask them to pick a computer and sit by it  
• Show them how to set up an account and work Windows Live Writer  
• Assign the students an animal  
  • Instruct them to put pictures on the blog  
  • Instruct them to write out characteristics of the animal  
  • Instruct them to identify the sources they used by copy and pasting the link onto their page  
• Ask the students to look at a partner's finished page |
| **Evaluation** | • 5 points for completing assignment with both pictures and graphics  
• 3 points for completing either pictures of graphics  
• 0 points for not completing anything |
Expressing Emotions

Overview
Using Windows Live Writer, students will post blogs about what they are feeling that day.

Objective
Given a computer and the Windows Live Writer program, students will post blogs about how they are feeling by writing several sentences and posting a picture with ease.

Standards
2.4.5: Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing.
2.4.7: Proofread one's own writing, as well as that of others, using an editing checklist or list of rules.
2.4.8: Revise original drafts to improve sequence (the order of events) or to provide more descriptive detail.

Material
- Windows Live Writer
- Computer with Internet access

Procedure
- Greet students and ask them to pick a computer and sit by it
- Show the class how to set up an account and work Windows Live Writer
- Ask the students how they are feeling and be ready to express it
  - Instruct them to find an appropriate picture relating to their feelings and post it in their blog
- Tell students to write a paragraph on their feelings and place in blog
- Ask the students to look at and revise a partner's finished page

Evaluation
If the activity is completed successfully, with a paragraph, picture, and revision, the student will receive the allotted 10 points.
**When I Get Older, I Want to Be...**

**Overview**
Students will learn to use Windows Live Writer by posting a blog with pictures about what they want to be when they get older.

**Objective**
Given a computer and the Windows Live Writer program, the students will be able to explore possible career fields and create a post about the ones they find most interesting. The completed blog will be free of errors.

**Standards**
2.4.5: Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing.
3.4.8: Revise writing for others to read, improving the focus and progression of ideas.
3.4.1: Find ideas for writing stories and descriptions in conversations with others; in books, magazines, or school textbooks; or on the Internet.

**Materials**
- Windows Live Writer
- Computer with Internet access

**Procedure**
- Ask students to sit down in a seat with a computer
- Show the class how to use Windows Live Writer
- Tell the class to write about what career they would like to have when older
- Instruct them to add pictures and words
- Ask class to share with a friend after completion

**Evaluation**
- If the student completed exercise correctly give him or her 10 points
- If the student did not complete exercise but tried give him or her 5 points
- If the student did not complete exercise give him or her 0 points

Lesson Plan Available as:
- Word Document
- PDF

**Lesson Plan #4**

**Cloud Coverage**
Students will create a blog reporting their cloud and weather findings over a seven day period. They will also upload cloud pictures to their blog.

**Objective**
By observing the clouds over a seven day period and recording their observations on Windows Live Writer, students will:
- Learn the different types of clouds in the sky
- Become better observers of the sky as they will see different types of clouds over several days.
- Learn how to operate a blog application (Windows Live Writer)

**Standards**
Chart or graph weather observations such as cloud cover, cloud type and type of precipitation on a daily basis over a period of weeks.[1]

**Materials**
- The book *High in the Clouds* by Paul McCartney
- The book *The Cloud Book* by Tomie de Paola
- Windows Live Writer
- Computer
- Paper
- Pencil
- Camera

**Procedure**
1. Read the book, *High in the Clouds* by Paul McCartney and *The Cloud Book* by Tome de Paola to the students. This will introduce them to the different clouds.
2. Explain the different cloud types (Cirrus, Stratus, Cumulus, and Cumulonimbus)
3. Explain to the students they will be observing the sky and the clouds for the next week (7 days.)
4. Introduce and explain the application, Windows Live Writer to the students
5. Instruct the students to write down their observations of the clouds each day and then to record their observations in Windows Live Writer. Windows Live Writer will allow the students to express their observations of the sky, and the application will allow them to upload pictures they took of the sky each day.
6. Their observations should include* The types of clouds they see* The color of the sky* The temperature outside* Pictures of the sky

**Evaluation**
To ensure the students understand how to observe the sky and understand the different cloud types, students will present their recordings on Windows Live Writer to the class.


**Lesson Plan Available as:**
- Word Document
Secondary Education

Lesson Plan #1

**Fluency Through Oral Interpretations**

**Overview**
After reading poems of their choosing, students will read out loud to a partner, evaluate each other, and record their findings using Windows Live Writer.

**Objectives**
1. Learn how to master reading by using fluency and oral interpretations.
2. Find meaning in text as a reader.
3. Communicate an interpretation of text to an audience.
4. Learn how to navigate Windows Live Writer to express understanding of reading.

**Standards**
Listening and Speaking 8.7: Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. They evaluate the content of oral communication. Students deliver well-organized formal presentations using traditional speech strategies including narration, exposition, persuasion, and description. Students use the same Standard English conventions for oral speech that they use in their writing.

**Materials**
- A poem selected by student
- notecards
- internet access for each student
- computer program Windows Live Writer
- A partner (You will take turns reading poems)
- Paper
- Pencil

**Procedures**
1. After selecting a poem, read it several times until you feel you have a good understanding of what was read.
2. Get together with partner and take turns reading poems to one another.
3. While the other partner is reading, the other partner needs to be writing down notes such as: reading got softer, louder, paused while reading, showed great emotion, etc.
6. Using Windows Live Writer, convey what you wrote on the evaluation sheet and prepare to present to class.

**Evaluation**
To ensure the students have completed their assignment correctly, students will present their recordings on Windows Live Writer to the class.

Lesson Plan Available as:
Word Document
PDF

Lesson Plan #2

**Making Psychology Fun**

**Overview**
Many students need practice working with the Internet as a way to learn, and especially then publishing what they learned as a way to show their knowledge. This lesson plan is designed to help students gain more practice with a blog while still learning psychology terms and thinking more critically about psychology.

**Objective**
Given a video on YouTube, students will create a blog on Windows Live Writer critically discussing the experiment using psychology terms with 100% accuracy.

**Standards**
P.1.4: Explain the relationship among independent and dependent variables and experimental and control groups.
P.1.8: Apply the principles of research design to an appropriate experiment.
P.1.9: Describe and compare quantitative and qualitative research strategies.

**Materials**
- Computer
- Textbook

**Procedure**
- Review key psychology terms on experiments and experiment design.
- Review notes taken in class about the correct use of Windows Live Writer.
- Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEPb610YaUI and view the video on an experiment created by students.
- On Windows Live Writer, post your thoughts on the experiment using at least 6 psychology terms. Discuss the variables, the purpose, and ethicality. Do you think this is a “good” experiment? Does it answer what it sets out to find? What do you think is wrong with the experiment? What would you change?
### Lesson Plan # 3

**Current Events Project**

**Overview**
Students need to keep up with world events so they can become informed, educated citizens. Through this ongoing current events project, students will not only gain practice in working with a blog (using Windows Live Writer), but they will also learn about the major issues that are affecting our world today.

**Objective**
Given newspapers and computers, students will keep and update a blog once every two weeks highlighting and discussing a current event in the world, Indiana, or our own community with 100% factual accuracy.

**Standards**
- 10.5.3: Write expository compositions, including analytical essays, summaries, descriptive pieces, or literary analyses
- W.H.9.5: Use technology in the process of conducting historical research and in the presentation of the products of historical research and current events.
- U.S.G.5.12: Use information from a variety of resources to describe and discuss American political issues such as environmental issues, women's rights and affirmative action.

**Materials**
- Computer with Internet access
- Windows Live Writer
- Newspaper (optional)

**Procedure**
- Create a blog on Windows Live Writer with a title such as “2009: Current Events From Around the World.”
- Every two weeks, find an event from some source (newspaper, online) and summarize the event on your blog.
- Include a discussion of how you think the event could affect, in a larger sense, the people who are involved in it. This could be you or people from other cultures.
- Include one graphic per discussion which goes along with the event.
- Include a reference to where you got your information and your graphic. This does not need to be a full citation, but simply describes where you got it (i.e. website link). This is a summary of the event, not a copy and paste, so plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- Event summaries are due every other Monday by 7:30 a.m. Late summaries will lose half the amount of points you would normally receive per day it’s late.

**Evaluation**
Students will be awarded 10 points for each on time, well written, well designed summary. Points will be awarded for obvious lack of effort. There will be no other assessment on the events.

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### Lesson Plan # 4

**Cell Biology: 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**

**A. Pre-Activity Preparation**
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.

**B. Collect Clues**
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 on 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.

**C. Finishing the Activity (Assessment)**
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.
Lesson Plan Available as:

Word Document

PDF

Lesson Plan #5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Report on Blog Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Materials</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Procedure</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Evaluation</strong></td>
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Available as

word document

Post Secondary

Lesson Plan #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creating Connections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Standards</strong></td>
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**Lesson Plan #2**

**Hospitality and Tourism**

**Overview**
Students will create a blog about specific areas in the world where hospitality and tourism are a major part of the economy.

**Objective**
Given the computer and Windows Live Writer, students will be able to use Photo Publishing and Map Publishing to blog about the Hospitality and Tourism Management programs in all areas around the world.

**Standards**
12.4.9: Use technology for all aspects of creating, revising, editing, and publishing.
12.5.7: Use precise technical or scientific language when appropriate for topic and audience.
BMIT: Educate individuals for and about business, marketing, entrepreneurship, and information technology.

**Materials**
- Windows Live Writer
- Computer
- HTM 212 textbook

**Procedure**
- Assign reading from the text
- Navigate through WLW
- Allow class time and personal time to research different parts of the world where hospitality is a major business
- Blog using pictures and maps to create a clear understanding of the affects of the economy on Hospitality and Tourism Management

**Evaluation**
- 10 pts- Completing the assignment with little or no error and incorporate pictures and maps
- 7 pts- Completing with several errors
- 4 pts- Completing but left out the pictures and maps
- 0 pts- No attempt of assignment

Lesson Plan Available as:
- Word Document
- PDF

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**Lesson Plan #3**

**Let’s Eat Healthy!**

**Overview**
Students will create a blog to chart a three day food entry using USDA Dietary Guidelines for Food and Nutrition 202 including caloric, fat, and protein intake.

**Objective**
Given the computer, Windows Live Writer, and a food chart, students will be able to post a three day food chart with 95% accuracy.

**Standards**
- 12.4.9: Use technology for all aspects of creating, revising, editing, and publishing.
- NW-3.1: Apply USDA Dietary Guidelines in planning to meet personal and family nutrition and wellness needs across the life span.
- NW-4.1: Demonstrate ability to select, store, prepare, and serve nutritious and aesthetically pleasing foods.

**Materials**
- Windows Live Writer
- Computer with Internet access
- F&N 202 textbook

**Procedure**
- Assign readings from the text book
- Navigate through WLW
- Allow class time and personal time to develop and continue updating the blog

**Evaluation**
- 10 pts- Completing the full three days with little or no errors
- 7 pts- Completing the full three days with several errors
- 4 pts- Completing two days with little or no errors
- 0 pts- No attempt of assignment

Lesson Plan Available as:
- Word Document
- PDF
Lesson Plan #1

The Big Switch

Overview
A corporation has just switched from PCs to Mac computers. The boss decides to make a blog site where he or she uses Windows Live Writer to upload screen shots of the Mac desktop and will add arrows and text boxes to explain different functions. The boss can also upload a video of himself (or herself) using the Mac to explain something. Then, as the employees post questions on the blog, the boss can post back text, photo, or videos explanations. This is better than e-mail because all employees can see the questions and answers on the same site without mailbox clutter.

Objective
Given a Mac computer one week after posting and reading the boss's Windows Live Writer blog, the employees will switch to a Mac computer from a PC with ease.

Standards
12.4.9: Use technology for all aspects of creating, revising, editing, and publishing.
12.5.7: Use precise technical or scientific language when appropriate for topic and audience.
12.5.9: Write academic essays, such as an analytical essay, a persuasive essay, a research report, a summary, an explanation, a description, or a literary analysis

Materials
• A PC computer
• A Mac computer
• A camera (for the boss to use and uploads photos and videos from)

Procedure
• The boss will create a blog site
• Using Windows Live Writer, he or she will write the directions for the transition in the word processor and will add video and pictures to demonstrate the directions.
• Employees will examine the blog and respond with any questions (while still using their PCs)
• The boss will answer questions with text, pictures, graphics, video, etc.
• One week later, the employees will switch to Macs

Evaluation
The switch should run smoothly and without a decrease in productivity. There will be an open flow of communication between the teacher and learners.

Lesson Plan #2

Creating the Look

Overview
In the fashion design industry, the designer would express the theme for the next season's collection. His or her employees would find pictures of various inspirations online (e.g. prints, fabrics, scenes) and post them on a blog using Windows Live Writer. Even videos centering on the theme's time period or setting would help comprise an online portfolio of inspirations.

Objective
Given a week, the interns and employees will compile an online portfolio (blog) with enough information about the theme to design next season's clothes. Using Windows Live Writer, the employees will upload a complete portfolio of pictures, videos, and text about the theme to a blog site.

Standards
12.4.9: Use technology for all aspects of creating, revising, editing, and publishing.
FTC-3.4 Demonstrate design concepts with material or computer, using draping and/or flat pattern making techniques.
FTC-3.7 Demonstrate ability to use technology for fashion design.

Materials
• Windows Live Writer
• Computer with Internet access

Procedure
• The designer announces a theme for the next season's collection
• The interns and employees are given a week to search for pictures, fabrics, previous designs, and videos that match the theme of the collection
• Once they find information that would be helpful, they compile it on Windows Live Writer and upload to the blog site

Evaluation
When complete, the blog should contain adequate information about the theme. The designer as well as the employees should have an accurate idea of all details surrounding the theme and will design clothes accordingly.
Lesson Plan #3

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<th>Fix It!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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References


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### X. Handouts

- **Brochure**
- **Powerpoint**

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