

**Cool, Free or Inexpensive Tech Tools for Academic Success**  
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**Connective Technology Solutions**

Free or inexpensive software, Web 2.0 tools, and hardware to support your success in the classroom and beyond. From apps for your cell phone, iPad, iPod and more, to online notebooks, research tools, file storage, tools for lecture recording for playback anywhere, text readers, assignment trackers, and much more. Snap a picture of your reading assignment and let your iPhone read it to you! Check out what's out there to make you look good on paper, help with assignments, and good in the classroom.

**Echo/Live Scribe Pens** - <http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/> - record audio component of lectures, captures written notes. Sync pen to computer to upload audio files and notes for playback. Can export audio files for playback on other devices.

**Lecture Recording apps for iPod/iPad/iPhone**

- **Soundnote** record audio of lectures and take notes
- **Note Taker HD**
- **AudioNote**
- **QuickVoice**
- **Auditorium** – note taking and recording tool

**OverDrive Media Console** – <http://www.overdrive.com/software/omc/>

- Free program to sync audio books, downloaded online from your public library using your library card, to devices such as iPhone, iPad, iPod, Blackberry, Android and Windows Mobile phones

**iTunesU**

- Free online audio lectures, courseware, learning modules on subjects ranging from Physics, Geometry, Algebra, Calculus, English, Literature, Finances, History, Art, Environmental Studies, Learning Languages, and more from 100's of major universities and colleges – on the iTunes store/iTunesU

**Research Tools:**

- **Eyexplorer** - <http://vionto.com/show>
- **Google Wonder Wheel** - <http://www.googlewonderwheel.com/>
- **Zotero** – Firefox and Word Plug-in <http://www.zotero.org/>
- **TimeGlider** - <http://timeglider.com/index.php> - timeline creator
- **StatPlanet** - [www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/StatPlanet.html](http://www.sacmeq.org/statplanet/StatPlanet.html) - statistical maps of countries
- **Evri** - [www.evri.com](http://www.evri.com) - news aggregation for topic searching. Compiles current news articles on subject or topic
- **Boducus** - <http://bodocus.com/> - online documentaries on major subject matters

- **Shmoop** - [www.shmoop.com](http://www.shmoop.com) - <http://www.shmoop.com/literature/> (literature section) - study and learning guides on topics from Literature, History, Economics, Music, etc. Excellent resource for searching for information on topics, teacher resources
- **Awesome Highlighter** - [www.awesomehighlighter.com](http://www.awesomehighlighter.com) – lets you highlight text on web pages and then gives you a small link to the highlighted page, can be added to the Firefox toolbar
- **Natural Reader** – <http://www.naturalreaders.com/> Free text to speech floating toolbar, reads aloud text on the web (Mac/PC)
- **WebReader HD** - app for iPad or iPod on the iTunes app store, that reads aloud text on web pages, pdf and Word files from Dropbox
- **Evernote** - <http://www.evernote.com/> - free. Save documents, notes, photos, sound clips, files on Mac, PC, Mobile devices, sync files between computer and other devices online.

### Citing & Referencing

- **Citing** - [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) - formats for citing sources
- **OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab** - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> - online writing lab resources for writing papers – help with citing, styles, plagiarism
- **How to cite APA Style** - <http://www.nova.edu/library/dils/lessons/apa/print.htm>
- **CiteSmart** - <http://www.miresoft.net/> - using CiteSmart 2.0, biologists can use this citation software program to manage bibliographic references when working with PubMed.
- **ScholarWord** - <http://scholarword.com/apa.htm> - software for computer to format your entire paper according to any of the leading style manuals. Seamlessly integrates comprehensive writing help to guide you step-by-step through any writing assignment.
- **Revue of citation tools** - <http://lib.calpoly.edu/research/citations/tools.html>
- **EndNote** - <http://www.endnote.com/enx4info.asp> - cite while you write. auto-hyperlink between in-text citations and the bibliography in EndNote X4 and Microsoft Word. Automatic citation report of references used in a Word document in your EndNote library.
- **Grammarly** - <http://www.grammarly.com/> - grammar check, plagiarism detection, vocabulary enhancement, contextual spell check
- **EasyPaper** - <http://eazypaper.eazypaper-inc.qarchive.org/> - plugs into Microsoft Word and automatically generates a document template outline according to APA, MLA, Turabian/Chicago, or AMA requirements. Creates Term Paper, Thesis, Dissertation, and Journal Article templates. Generates title page, table of contents, in-text citations, footnotes, references, bibliography, and more.
- **RefWork** - <http://www.refworks.com/> - allows users to create personal databases and use them for a variety of research activities. References are quickly and easily imported from text files or online databases. Users

can automatically insert references from their database into their papers and generate formatted bibliographies and manuscripts in seconds.

- **BibMe** - automatic bibliography maker that auto-fills. It's the easiest way to build a works cited page - free online - [www.bibme.org](http://www.bibme.org)

### **Slide Show & Timeline Creation:**

- **Animoto** - <http://animoto.com/>
- **280Slides** - <http://280slides.com/>
- **Capzles** - <http://www.capzles.com/> - online visual timeline creator
- **Interactive Timeline Creator**
  - <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/timeline/>
- **Horizontal** – up to 6 events, Vertical up to 9 events time line creator
  - [http://www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/materials/timelines/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/)

### **Word Processing & Note taking:**

- **SpringPad** – free online notebook accessible by iPod, iPad smart phones and computer <http://springpadit.com/>
- **Evernote** - <http://www.evernote.com/> - free. Save documents, notes, photos, sound clips, files on Mac, PC, Mobile devices, sync files between computer and devices such as iPad, iPhone, etc. online.
- **Google Docs** – free online word processing program [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
- **ThinkFree Online** – free online word processing program <http://member.thinkfree.com/member/goLandingPage.action>
- **Open Office** – free office suite similar to Microsoft Office for Mac and PC - <http://www.openoffice.org/>
- **Open Office Portable** – can run from a portable flash drive [http://portableapps.com/apps/office/openoffice\\_portable](http://portableapps.com/apps/office/openoffice_portable)
- **TypeWith.me** - free online collaborative writing document allowing up to 15 users to collaborate in writing a document. - <http://typewith.me/>
- **Google Wave** - free web application (online web document) for real-time communication and collaboration with Brainstorm, Documents, Task Tracking and Discussion – <http://wave.google.com/about.html>
- **PDF to Word Creator** - [www.pdfword.com](http://www.pdfword.com) - upload PDF files, program sends an e-mail file of converted PDF document to Word format.
- **Wordle** - [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net) – generate word clouds - auto summarize text documents by graphic emphasis on words use the most in an article
- **Great Summary** - <http://www.greatsummary.com/> - online auto summarize of text
- **Documents To Go® - Office Suite** – app for iPhone
- **GDocs** – notepad that can view, edit and sync documents from your Google Docs account. It allows you create, import/export and send documents for Android - <http://sites.google.com/site/gdocsforandroid/>
- **Predictable** – word processing app for iPad with word prediction – on iTunes app store

## Document Sharing and Collaboration

- **Google Wave** - free web application (online web document) for real-time communication and collaboration with Brainstorm, Documents, Task Tracking and Discussion – <http://wave.google.com/about.html>
- **Google Docs** – free online word processing program with document sharing [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
- **Crocodoc** - <http://crocodoc.com/> - online document collaboration tool allowing users to collaborate on the same document
- **Board800** - <http://board800.com/> - online interactive shared whiteboard – import images, text, type online
- **www.showdocument.com** – collaboration tool to share documents, whiteboard, text
- **www.scriblink.com** – shared online whiteboard
- **<http://etherpad.com>** – document sharing
- **<http://vyew.com>** – screen sharing, web collaboration tool – use for on the fly teaching beyond classroom

## Online File Storage and Sharing

- **Hobnox** - <http://www.hobnox.com/index.1056.en.html> - free, create online music, save and download
- **BoxNet** - [www.box.net](http://www.box.net) and [www.getdropbox.com](http://www.getdropbox.com) – saving and sharing files
- **DropBox** - <http://www.dropbox.com/> - online file storage and backup – one of the major programs for more than just file storage – free. Can be used to sync files with computers and iPads.
- **Files Anywhere** - <http://www.filesanywhere.com/> - 1 gig free, sliding scale for more storage
- **Evernote** - <http://www.evernote.com/> - free. Save documents, notes, photos, sound clips, files on Mac, PC, Mobile devices, sync files between computer and other devices online.

## Assignment Tracking Tools

- **Soshiku** - <http://soshiku.com> - online student assignment organizer. Can send e-mail and SMS prompts on assignments due
- **TrakClass** - <http://trackclass.com> - assignment tracker
- **Pocket Informant HD** – app for iPad, Iphone, iPod – organization, assignment tracker, calendar, sync with Outlook
- **StudentLife Organizer** – iphone, iPod, iPad app
- **Zoho** - <http://creator.zoho.com/demo/rajeshu/assignment-tracker/zsdemo/#> - online assignment tracker
- **Student Docket** - <http://www.studentdocket.com/> - assignment organizer for Blackberry
- **Ten Essential Smartphone Apps for Students** - <http://www.couponsherpa.com/ask-coupon-sherpa/18-essential-smartphone-apps-for-students/>

- **Google Calendar** – [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) – free, add assignments to online calendar, can set to send text messages to phone or computer at pre-appointed times on what assignments are due
- **MyHomework** (Free) app for iPad, iPod

### Plagiarism Tools

- **The Plagiarism Checker** - <http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/> - online free plagiarism checker for teachers
- **DocCop** - [www.doccop.com](http://www.doccop.com) - checks for correlation matches between multiple documents
- **PaperRater** - <http://www.paperrater.com/> - grammar and plagiarism checker
- **Grammarly** - <http://www.grammarly.com/> - plagiarism detection

### Contextual Grammar Checking

- **Grammarly** - <http://www.grammarly.com/> - grammar check, plagiarism detection, vocabulary enhancement, contextual spell check
- **Ginger** – contextual spelling and grammar checker, runs in MS Word, most versions of Office and related programs, and Internet Explore [www.gingersoftware.com](http://www.gingersoftware.com)

### Graphic Organizers, Mind Mapping Tools and Templates

#### Commercial:

- Spark Space - <http://www.spark-space.com/>
- Inspiration & Kidspiration - [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com)
- SmartDraw - <http://www.smartdraw.com/>
- Kurzweil 3000 - [www.kurzweiledu.com](http://www.kurzweiledu.com) has a graphic organizer embedded as feature in the program
- WiseMapping - <http://www.wisemapping.com/c/home.htm>

#### Free:

- **Mindmeister** - <http://www.mindmeister.com/> free web based
- **Mindomo** - <http://www.mindomo.com/> free web based
- **Bubbl.us** - <http://www.bubbl.us/> free web based brainstorming
- **Ekpenso** - <http://en.ekpenso.com/> online mind mapping tool
- **Mapul** - <http://www.mapul.com/>
- **MindNode** - <http://www.mindnode.com/> concept mapping for Mac
- **Web of web** - <http://webofweb.net/> open source collaboration tool
- **CMap** - <http://cmap.ihmc.us/conceptmap.html>
- **Thinkature** - <http://thinkature.com/>
- <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>
- [http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic\\_organizers.htm](http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic_organizers.htm)
- <http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/igo.htm>
- <http://www.graphicorganizers.com/>

### **Graphic Organizers, Mind Mapping Tools For iPad, iPod:**

- Popplet – free
- MindNode (\$5.99)
- SimpleMind (\$Free / \$6.99)
- Idea Sketch (\$Free)
- iThoughts HD (\$9.99)

### **Firefox Add-ons** - open Firefox, choose Tools menu, Add-ons, Get Add-ons

- **NoSquint** – screen magnifier
- **Talking Clipboard** – free version reads text on websites, paid allows you to export text as MP3
- **Wired Marker** – highlight text on web and saves highlights in categories
- **Zotero** – cite websites
- **ClickSpeak** – free text to speech add-on for earlier versions
- **Video Download Helper** – capture, download video and image files from sites
- **Yoooper** - highlight in one-click, permanent highlight, even on dynamic websites (Wikipedia, Gmail) data back-up on Yoooper server, memory teaser and summary page, copy, print or e-mail highlights
- **FireShot** – web page capture utility that resides on the Firefox Tools menu

### **Add-ons for Internet Explorer 8**

- To access - Click the Tools button, and then click Manage Add-ons.
- Internet Explore add-ons: <http://www.ieaddons.com/en/>

### **Snap and Listen**

Applications that are used for taking a picture of a page of text from cell phones or other portable devices, then converting the image to text for reading back, using natural speech voices.

- **KNFB Reader** – [www.knfbreader.com](http://www.knfbreader.com) – software for certain model Nokia cellphones that allows a user to take a picture of any page of text, the program will then read it back with high quality text to speech voices
- **ZoomReader** – <http://mobile.aisquared.com> – app on iTunes App Store for iPhone, iPod, iPad - take a picture of any page of text, the program will then read it back with high quality text to speech voices
- **Intel Reader** - [http://www.donjohnston.com/products/intel\\_reader/](http://www.donjohnston.com/products/intel_reader/) - high-resolution camera with the power of an Intel Atom™ processor that converts printed text to digital text, and then reads it aloud while highlighting the text onscreen.

**Scan and Read** – using a flatbed scanner, scan pages of text, program reads back  
**Kurzweil 3000** - [www.kurzweiledu.com](http://www.kurzweiledu.com)

**Kurzweil 3000 Web Client** - [www.kurzweiledu.com](http://www.kurzweiledu.com)

**Read & Write Gold** - [www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com) – scanning software as well as text to speech