Educational Technology Tools

This chart provides a brief overview of some educational technology tools you may find helpful beyond presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Apple Keynote.

Technology Tool	What is it?	How can it help me?	Where can I find it?	What do I need to keep in mind?	Where can I learn more?
Blogs	Short for web logs, these are journals stored on the web in reverse chronological order.	Students can reflect on their learning, respond to writing prompts, and comment on other postings, etc.	**Sakai** BlogWow! is available in Sakai. Each student will receive a blog after they click on the blog toolbar. **Blogger.com, Edublogs** free blog sites are available, but they may contain links to inappropriate blogs	A blog is essentially a *personal*, reflective piece. While others my add comments to a student's blog, it is not really a collaborative tool.	If you aren't sure what a blog is, try **YouTube.com:** Blogs in Plain English
Wikis	The word wiki is Hawaiian for quick; interactive websites that can be easily modified by group members.	Allows for students to work collaboratively to build a shared knowledge base, solve a problem, etc.	**Sakai** There is a wiki tool available in Sakai, but it can be difficult for some students to use. **PBWorks.com, WikiSpaces.com, wetpaint.com** free wiki sites are available, but do not tie in with UD accounts. Most can be private, requiring a password for access. **MediaWiki**, **DokuWiki**, and other programs run on your own server.	A wiki is a *collaborative* tool. Often, students are reluctant to modify one another's wiki entries. You may want to model how participants can build on and change the information already there. The computer lab is not the place to use a wiki! Multiple students attempting to edit a wiki at the same time = a mess!	If you aren't sure what a wiki is, try **YouTube.com:** Wikis in Plain English Think carefully if you plan to grade a wiki. You could have students sign their entries with names or initials, but that can hinder interaction. If you grade work in a wiki, it may be best to give a group grade. You may also check the history to see if everyone is contributing. You can always use the history button to return the wiki to a previous version.

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Discussion Forum	An online conversation, providing threads for connecting related posts	Allows conversations to be continued outside of class time	**Sakai** There is a discussion forum tool available in Sakai.	A discussion forum is essentially a *conversation*. One participant begins the conversation by creating a post, and others respond to that post.	
Class Web Site	Can be a portal to all online functions, or a collection of resources.	Organize your materials and update the site with new files based on student interests.	**Sakai** offers a Resources folder that can be used to organized class files of all kinds.		
Clickers	Clickers are wireless keypads to increase interactivity, especially for a large lecture class.	This technology provides instant feedback to both instructors and students.	**www.udel.edu/topics/clickers**	Students need to have purchased a clicker with their textbook.	**www.udel.edu/topics/clickers** contains faculty testimonials and step-by-step instructions.