

Using Technology to Prepare Students for the AP English Exam

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NB: My Roundtable Presentation is posted on my home page:
<http://web.suffieldacademy.org/~bsullivan>

Suffield Academy: Independent, boarding and day school, laptop school, Suffield, Ct (www.suffieldacademy.org). With an enrollment of 400 students, Suffield Academy is a 9-12 boarding school with a majority of borders from the east coast as well as a few students from the other regions of the US. We also have a diverse international population. Day students are from the Hartford and Springfield area.

My Roundtable Description:

Using Technology to Prepare Students for AP English

In many subjects, teachers now use computer technology to engage their students, keeping classroom assignments diverse and current. During this conversation, colleagues will share ways that the Web can enhance AP English Literature, help students succeed in the course, and streamline access to handouts and other reading materials. Among various online tools and techniques, participants will learn about a project in which students interpreted Shakespeare's sonnets for video. They created short, YouTube-style movies with modern takes on the bard's English, sharpening their analytical abilities in the process.

My Use of Technology: I use web pages in my class for several reasons:

- I create web pages, instead of handouts that delineate curriculum and its various contexts. I post curricular sites with text, links, images, sound, PowerPoint and movies.
- I have students create their own English web page, and these individual sites host assignments such as students' interdisciplinary connections (web pages with multimedia links, PowerPoint documents, and audio files of poetry, as well as personal and cultural writing assignments to our literature. They also post personal narrative writing samples; we do not post analytical essays. I also have them create their own AP style multiple-choice questions after some of our literary units.
- I try to incorporate digital storytelling and digital poems and similar multimedia projects once a trimester in the academic year.
- As a digital immigrant, I always ask my students (my co-investigators and digital natives) for help when it comes to creating meaningful assignments that incorporate technology with our curriculum.