



Volume 20  
January 2009

# Tech-Talk

*Dixon-Style*

Stowers' Technology Newsletter

Created by  
SAD, ET



Beginning this week, Web 2.0 and ClassTools will be introduced in each of the weekly tech newsletters as part of ET/IS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Projects. Even though some of the links I am providing for you here are self-explanatory, Mitzi and I are also offering weekly (optional, of course) 30 minute sessions to discuss the tools introduced here. Day: Tuesday; Time: Grade-Level Planning Periods

## Web2.0 Tool #1:

### Poll Everywhere

Live Audience Polling

*Poll Everywhere* is a simple text message or web-based voting application that is

designed for use with live audiences. People vote by sending text messages or web votes to options displayed on-screen. The poll will update in real time

Here is how simple it is:

1. Ask a your class a question
2. Students use the web link to answer the question
3. Results update live
4. Multiple Choice & free response

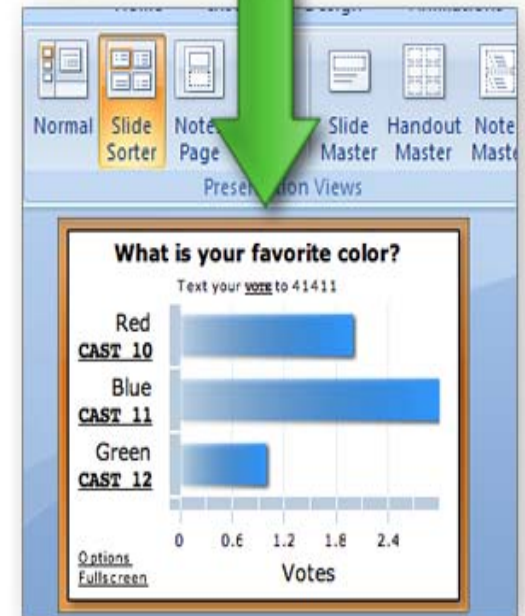
### Why use *Poll Everywhere*?

- Increase classroom participation and attentiveness
- Encourage risk-taking with anonymous student responses
- Elicit diverse opinions when there isn't a correct answer
- Expose social misconceptions
- Gauge student comprehension of material immediately
- Grab students with thought-provoking opening questions
- Allow students to provide instructor feedback
- Automate taking attendance
- Assess last night's reading with a quick quiz
- Strengthen retention

\*\*Free Plan includes 30 participants, 1 teacher

### Website:

<http://www.polleverywhere.com/>





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## Web2.0 Tool #2

### Google Docs

#### Create and share your work online

Upload your files, edit anytime from anywhere, choose who can access your documents share and collaborate online. Files are stored securely online.

It's free!

#### Getting to know Google Docs:

<http://docs.google.com/support/bin/topic.py?topic=15119>

#### Website:

<https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?service=writely&passive=true&num=1&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F&followup=http%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2F&ltmpl=homepage&rm=false>

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## Web2.0 Tool #3

### Mix Turtle

An amazing music search engine. You name the tune and it plays!

It's free to have an account.

Type the name of the song and you will get a list by different artists. Click and listen to the music. You can create a folder and save in your playlist.

#### Website:

<http://www.mixturtle.com/>

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## Web2.0 Tool #4

### Visuwords

Visuwords is an online graphical dictionary. Look up words to find their meanings and associations with other words and concepts.

Produce diagrams and learn how words associate.

It's a dictionary and a thesaurus.

The online dictionary is available wherever there is an internet connection.

It's color-coded to show parts of speech, opposites, synonyms, etc.

#### Website:

<http://www.visuwords.com/>

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## ClassTool #1

### Countdown Timer

Time Left



Interactive with or without music. You can select a soundtrack from 30 seconds up to 7 minutes 18 seconds or you can type your own number of minutes/seconds for a countdown. (up to 99 minutes & 99 seconds.)

#### Website:

[http://classtools.net/main\\_area/template\\_loader.php?timer](http://classtools.net/main_area/template_loader.php?timer)

---until next week