

Suggested Websites, Resources, and Activities to Improve Students' Literacy Skills

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mediaCONNECT – <http://www.mediaconnect.cnyric.org>

- All BOCES staff and students have access to mediaCONNECT and all of the streaming resources included in the service.
 - o Ideas to improve student literacy skills
 - Use Soundzabound music files as a writing prompt – play a piece of music and have the students write about what the music means to them or why it is being played with the topic being studied
 - Discovery Education – has many built in tools that can be used by creating a class in Discovery Education (contact Amy for help with this) such as assignment builders, writing prompt builders, and board builders. Also many of the resources here are aligned with the Common Core. Has a “This Day in History” Calendar with information and video clips about each event. There are also many curriculum resources and lesson plans included in Discovery Education.
 - Learn360 – many pieces of music as well as movie clips that can be used as writing prompts. Many of the resources are aligned with the Common Core. Has a “This Day in History” Calendar with information and video clips about each event. Many video clips have teachers guides included with suggested writing prompts.
 - NBC Learn – Lots of great video clips to be used as writing prompts. Can also print out transcripts of video clips to have students take notes on, highlight, etc.

CAPspace – <http://projects.twice.cc>

- Great place to find a partner class or a collaboration to videoconference with about what is being studied in class. Students are more apt to put more effort in their work if they know there will be an audience.
- Suggested activities include:
 - o Read Around the Planet - Read Around the Planet is a celebration of NEA's Read Across America. Classrooms use interactive video to connect with other classrooms “around the planet” and read to each other. The activity is sponsored by TWICE and Polycom, in cooperation with NEA. TWICE provides the registration tool, matches classrooms with partners, and provides support documents. Participating classrooms are responsible for their own video connection and developing their own reading activities for the event.(Disclaimer: While we are using this name to be inclusive to our international friends, this name does NOT guarantee U.S. schools an international connection. They will be matched randomly as usual in this project.) This activity is open to all K-12 students (ages 6-18) in public and private schools who have access to two-way interactive video equipment (IP H.323). There is no charge for this event.
 - o Create your own classroom project – Descriptive Writing Exchange, Games shows, Quiz Bowls, Mystery Quests, Literature Circles, Poetry Idol, etc

Kidblog – <http://kidblog.org>

- Safe and Simple place to create blogs with your students. Blog posts could include: Classroom discussions, practice writing with an authentic audience, create e-portfolios, reflect on learning, peer writing and review

Google Docs – <http://docs.google.com>

- Easy to access place for multiple students to work collaboratively on a document, presentation, or spreadsheet.

PBWORKS – <http://pbworks.com/education>

- Publish class notes, collaborate on group projects, great place to publish to an authentic audience.