



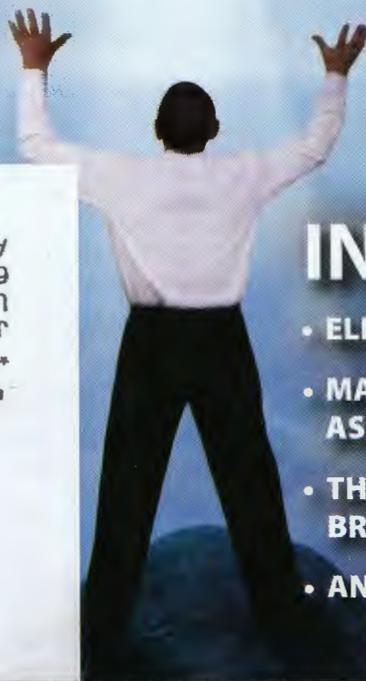
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# MACUL JOURNAL



# CLASSROOM IN THE CLOUD



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ELEMENTARY KIDS AND 'THE CLOUD'
- MANAGING CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT IN THE CLOUD
- THE 21 THINGS PROJECT: BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
- AND MORE!

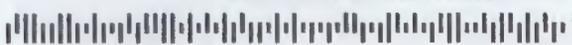
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# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

By Amanda Hurless



## How Quizlet Can Help Meet the Needs of Different Learners

Sitting in class, learning about and exploring web 2.0 tools, I often think how great and useful they look. I think: *Wow! That looks really cool. I want to use that somehow!* But, in the same moment of awe and excitement, I'm confronted with thinking, *but how will my students be able to use this? Am I even going to be able to use this where I'm at?* When I came across Quizlet, I was no less skeptical. *What could this tool offer my students?*

### What it is

Quizlet (quizlet.com) is, at first glance, the newest version of flashcards. By creating a free account with an e-mail address, users can make their own virtual set of flashcards in order to study any subject they wish. What's unique about this tool is that versus ordinary flashcards it gives you several "study modes" through which you can interact with the material. From "Learn," which requires a short response to "Test," which can be set to provide questions in various formats to "Scatter" and

"Space Race," which present the material in a game format, Quizlet stages an interactive learning platform that can't be matched by index cards.

### What you can do

Quizlet is more than a paperless alternative to memorization. By creating an account, users gain access to thousands of flashcard sets that have already been created by other users by clicking on "Find Flashcards." Need to study terms for your test on Latin verbs? There's a set for that. Looking to brush up on polynomial functions? There's a set for that. Perhaps you want your students to study the vocabulary from chapters one and two, but can only find the terms separated into two sets by chapter. Simply have them find each set, click on them, and "Add to favorites." From there, your students can go to their "Dashboard," click on one of the sets, click "Combine," add the second set, choose a "study mode," and they're off!

If you can't find what you want, you can just create your own set by clicking on "Make Flashcards." You determine who has access to them and who can edit them. You can also add images for your visual learners. From "My Groups" you can create groups and invite your students by e-mail to join them. As a member of a group, you can discuss flashcard sets with other group members and send messages to them, as well as edit the flashcard set if allowed by the group's creator. Better yet, have your students be the creators.

Quizlet encourages collaboration. You want your students to learn certain material—why not learn from each other? While you are reviewing the American Revolution in class, you could

have one designated recorder on the classroom computer typing in important terms and concepts from the class brainstorming session on last night's reading. That night (and throughout the unit), your students could collaborate and discuss what should go on each of the cards through the group you set up and invited them to on *Quizlet*. (As the creator, you could add your two cents, too.) As information on the cards continues to be refined throughout the unit as students learn more about the original concepts and find more important ones to add, you could test them in class. By clicking on the flashcard set and then "Test," you could choose to set up a quiz with a combination of written answer, multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions and then print it out for distribution. If you had access to a computer lab, you could have students log in to their own accounts, go into "Test" mode with the parameters of your choice, take the test, submit it, and then print out their already graded results to hand in either as a comprehension check or for a grade. You could even have them go into their "Dashboard," which tracks statistics about their *Quizlet* use, to see how often they've been using the tool to study, in which modes, and how well they're mastering the material.

#### Why it's special

As a student teacher in an underserved urban setting, I find myself analyzing closely the applicability of what I'm learning in the classroom to the practice of teaching in such a setting. When

I see demonstrations of these tools, I think about my students who do not have internet access at home, let alone a computer (or even an e-mail address). As a Language Arts teacher, I think about my students who are also working to master the English language and how the tool meshes with or can accommodate for their different fluency levels. I think about my students who, as high schoolers, read at levels far below their grade level. *How will my students be able to use these tools? How are these tools considerate of different learners?*

*Quizlet* is special because it offers something different for each of my students. I can create flashcards and add sound clips to them to help students who are learning English or have lower reading levels. My auditory learners can use the *Voice Space Race* or *Scatter* learning modes to study. I can add pictures to sets that I create for visual learners. For those that simply do not have access to the tool from home, I can print the study sets in list or card format and provide some access.

Every student has different learning needs. Why not use a free tool that encourages collaboration and can help you meet those unique needs? Check it out at: [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com).

*Amanda Hurless is a student teacher at Thurston High School in Redford, Michigan. She is currently a student at the University of Michigan in the Master of Arts with Certification program and hopes to help each student gain access to achieving their dreams.*

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