

# 10 Good Options for Building Digital Portfolios

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Over the course of the school year our students create some fantastic digital products. Building a digital portfolio is a great way for students to look back at everything they've done and organize their works into a cohesive package. The following ten tools are good useful for creating digital portfolios.

Google Sites (<http://sites.google.com>) is a good platform on which students and teachers that have Google Apps for Education accounts can build digital portfolios. Page-level permissions in Google Sites allows the creator of a site to share and give editing access to specific pages within a site rather than giving access to edit the entire site. To use page-level permissions open your Google Site editor then click "enable page-level permissions." With page-level permissions activated you can share and allow editing for each page individually. A video tutorial on using page-level permissions can be found at <http://bitly.com/FTPLP15> A 47 page guide to Google Sites can be seen here <http://bitly.com/ftgsites>

Weebly (<http://weebly.com>) can be a great digital portfolio platform for your students. Weebly makes it easy to create websites that look great and are easy to navigate. Weebly users can select from a superb collection of site templates and themes. The Weebly mobile apps allow users to edit and add content on the go. Weebly for Education (<http://education.weebly.com/>) includes all of the intuitive website-building and blogging tools found on Weebly plus features built specifically for education. Weebly for Education offers bulk creation of student accounts which teachers can manage and moderate. Students can create their own websites and blogs using the accounts that you create for them.

Seesaw (<http://web.seesaw.me/>) is a free service designed for creating digital portfolios on iPads, Android tablets, and Chromebooks. Students can add artifacts to their portfolios by taking pictures of their work (in the case of a worksheet or other physical item), by writing about what they've learned, or by shooting a short video to record something they have learned. Students can add voice comments to their pictures to clarify what their pictures document. To get started with Seesaw create a free classroom account. Students join the classroom by scanning a QR code (you will have to print it or project it) that grants them access to your Seesaw classroom. As the teacher you can see and sort all of your students' Seesaw submissions. Seesaw allows parents to create accounts through which they can see the work of their children. As a teacher you can send notifications to parents when their children make a new Seesaw submission. Visit <http://bitly.com/ftseesaw> to watch a series of tutorials about Seesaw.

FreshGrade (<http://freshgrade.com>) is a free digital portfolio service that launched last year and has quickly become popular in some schools. The service allows teachers and students to create portfolios containing video and audio files, pictures, and text files. Teachers using FreshGrade can create and manage accounts for their students. From their dashboards teachers can assign tasks to students and see the work that students complete. A nice end-of-the-year aspect of FreshGrade is the option to create a slideshow of up to ten highlights of a student's portfolio. That slideshow can be shared directly to parents.

The eduClipper (<http://educlipper.net>) portfolio tool allows students to create portfolios of things they have clipped (AKA bookmarked) online, things they have stored in their Google Drive accounts, content they've created on services like Prezi and Animoto, and files they have stored on their computers. eduClipper portfolios use the same visual interface that students and teachers use when bookmarking things in eduClipper. Students can re-arrange elements in their portfolios by simply dragging and dropping them into position on their portfolio canvasses.

Dropr (<http://dropr.com>) is a free service for creating portfolios of your images, videos, and audio files. Within your Dropr account you can have multiple portfolio pages. If you wanted to have a page for images that you took in the fall and a page for images that you took in the spring, you can do that in Dropr. To create a Dropr portfolio start by signing up with a social media profile or with your email address. Then start your first project by uploading a cover image. Once you have started a project you can drag and drop media from your desktop to the Dropr website. Each project can include text in addition to the media that you upload to it. Each of your projects will have a different URL. You can work on your projects in private until you are ready to share them with the world. Your Dropr projects can be embedded into a blog as a slideshow.

Padlet (<http://padlet.com>) is a flexible tool that can be used for all sorts of things from creating digital KWL (know, want, learn) charts to sharing bookmarks to creating digital collages. You can use Padlet to have students contribute to a group portfolio. To do that have each student add example of their best work to a shared Padlet wall. You could also have students develop and maintain individual Padlet walls to which they add multiple examples of their work. Padlet allows users to upload content and or link to content. Learn more about how flexible and easy-to-use Padlet is by watching the video available at <http://bitly.com/1MAhCey>

Clipix (<http://clipix.com>) will initially remind you of Pinterest in that you can "clip" images, videos, and links to save on digital clipboards. Clipix also supports uploading files from your computer to your Clipix clipboards. Each of the clipboards that you create in your Clipix account can be kept private or made public. There is also a privately shared option that can be used for collaborating on clipboard creation. Clipix's basic functions are very similar to other services in the same market. The user interface on Clipix feels less cluttered to me than that of some of its competitors. The option to customize your clipboard background is a nice touch too. Clipix offers Android and iOS apps that will synchronize with your online Clipix account.

Tackk (<https://tackk.com/education>) is a free service that was originally designed for creating simple webpages, but has morphed into a good tool creating digital portfolios and assignment portfolios. To create a Tackk page you do not need to register for an account, but unregistered Tackk pages expire after seven days. If you register for the service your Tackk pages stay up indefinitely. I recommend registering for a free Tackk account before creating your first page. Creating a Tackk page is a simple matter of uploading an image then adding text in the customizable fields above and below your images. Tackk pages can also accommodate videos, audio files, and maps. You can find a video tutorial about Tackk at <http://bitly.com/fttackk>

Finally, if aesthetics aren't important to you, your students could showcase examples of their best work by using shared Google Drive, Dropbox, or Box.com folders. Those won't be the prettiest ways to showcase work, but it will be convenient and effective for sharing.

*Disclosures: I am an advisor to eduClipper. Seesaw and FreshGrade have advertised on FreeTech4Teachers.com.*