

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/content/wiki/whywiki.cfm>

***What benefits are there from student wiki participation?***

***Connections***

* Build greater connections between new and old knowledge by allowing student-created structure for the information and ideas.
* Build on the best of Bloom: Students use synthesis and evaluation constantly and consistently when they work on a wiki.

***Creativity***

* Build creativity skills, especially elaboration and fluency. Build creative flexibility in accepting others’ edits!
* Encourage “hitch-hiking” on ideas (a type of creative elaboration and analytical thinking: If X is true, then what about Y?).
* Introduce and reinforce the idea that a creative piece as never “done.”

***Engagement***

* Increase engagement of all students.
* In lieu of being passive “consumers” of their peers’ presentations (where they doze, doze and ignore), wiki makers respond, respond, change, and improve.
* Culminating projects no longer have to end!!

***Interpersonal***

* Develop interpersonal and communication skills, especially consensus-building and compromise, in an environment where the product motivates interpersonal problem-solving.
* Develop true teamwork skills

***Writing***

* Improve the most challenging phase of writing process: revision, revision, revision!
* Increase flexibility to consider other ways of saying things.
* Build an awareness of a wider, more authentic audience.

***Metacognition***

* Stimulate discussion and metacognition (where developmentally ready).
* Help students articulate issues about ownership, finding, different conceptualizations of the same content. These can be sophisticated challenges, even for the best students.