

Using iPads in a Readers' and Writers' Workshop

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Research Question

The question that guided the research was: *What do teachers need to know about using iPads to increase engagement in a readers' and writers' workshop?*

Project Summary

When developing this capstone project my personal experience as a student and as a teacher had me interested in how I could learn to use technology better in my classroom. I was also interested in providing other teachers with resources to help them better engage students in reading and writing workshops through the use of technology. My experience as a teacher led me to be interested in the professional development of teachers in relation to technology use in the classroom. I also discussed how my interest in teaching literacy skills could be linked to incorporating technology into daily lessons in readers' and writers' workshops. These personal experiences lead me to develop the research question: *What do teachers need to know about using iPads to increase engagement in a readers' and writers' workshop?*

To answer this research question I reviewed many articles and wanted to build a website that would provide teachers with information related to teaching readers' and writers' using a workshop model, technology used in schools by both teachers and students, professional development in relation to technology in the classroom, as well as student engagement and motivations. The information gained from this literature review provided the foundation for my project.

This project is aimed at general education elementary and middle school teachers who teach a readers' and/or writers' workshop. The content and strategies are mostly aimed towards students in the upper elementary to middle school age group, but content

can be adapted and used with any age group. The overgoal of this project is to provide educators with the resources they need to advance the use of technology in their classrooms.

The website is beneficial to classroom teachers providing them with training on how to use technology in the classroom to enhance their daily lessons and units.

The activities in this project require that teachers or schools have a classroom set of iPads or a 1:1 iPad ratio for students. In order for teachers to use other resources included in this project they may need to have a SMART Board, Projector, iPad and/or laptop. This project may also be interesting to school administrators, professional learning community leaders, and paraprofessionals, or parents who are helping their children with distance learning.

The Project

The website is found at <https://mengfer02.wixsite.com/mengfer02>. Deciding to create a website was the first idea I had for this project. In the past I have created a website for a dance studio, and I had enjoyed the opportunity to use my digital design skills to update their website, making it more modern and functional. The platform, Wix, was used for this project because it was the same platform that I have used in the past, so I was somewhat familiar with the online development program. The first steps were to create an outline that would later become the pages and sub pages of this website.

Using iPads in a Readers' and Writers' Workshop

What do teachers need to know about using iPads for engagement in a readers' and writers' workshop?

[Home](#)

[RW Workshop](#)

[Technology in Schools](#)

[Resources](#)

[About](#)

[References](#)

What do teachers need to know about using iPads to increase engagement in a readers' and writers' workshop?



The website includes three main sections available from the *Home* page: the main sections are *RW Workshop*, *Technology in Schools*, and *Resources*. The website also includes an *About* page and a page of *References*. From the home page users will be able to decide if they would like to learn more about using iPads in a readers' and/or writer's workshop, or if they would like to learn more about the benefits of increasing technology in schools.

workshop. As technology advances teachers have been able to use document cameras to show students work the entire class, or use screen sharing features to project digital work from the student's iPad onto a whiteboard for the class to see. These sharing sessions at the end of the workshop allow students to feel a sense of pride in their work and provides students with examples of what their peers are currently working on (Units of Study).



Create Meaningful Workshops

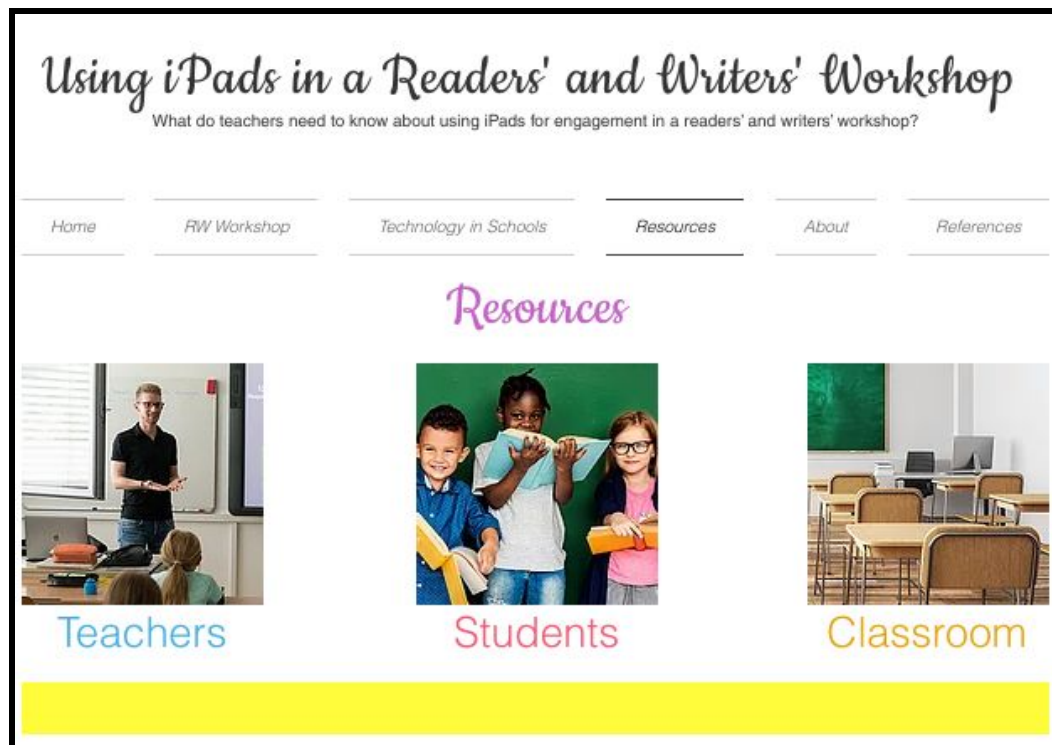


When a user clicks *RW Workshop* they are directed to a page that provides basic information about the workshop process. After learning about the workshop process the user will be prompted to click to learn about creating meaningful workshops. This section is important to the audience because it reaffirms that creating meaningful learning will increase student engagement.

If the user chooses to learn more about technology in schools they will be directed to a page that gives an overview of current technology practices in schools today. This page also talks about teachers and technology and students and technology. Following the section of teachers and technology the user can be linked to a resource bank for teachers. This resource bank has a library of various YouTube videos that would be useful for teachers. If the user chooses to learn more about students and technology they will be

A screenshot of a website page titled "Using iPads in a Readers' and Writers' Workshop". The page has a navigation menu with links for Home, RW Workshop, Technology in Schools, Resources, About, and References. The main heading is "Technology in Schools". The text discusses the use of iPads in schools, mentioning factors like teacher beliefs, technology experience, and teacher preparedness. It also notes that iPads are becoming more popular in schools due to features like portability and touch screen displays. At the bottom, there are two small images showing students using iPads in a classroom setting.

redirected to a resource bank that includes resources for teachers who want to help students better use technology. The resource bank also includes resources that teachers could use for the whole classroom and not just with one or two specific students who need help.



Within the website there is a page that describes learning management resources and the benefits of students using social media with their classmates. On this page of the website teachers can review literature about the topic. This page may be especially helpful to administrators who are deciding which learning management programs to use for their school. At the bottom of this page are links to various platforms that teachers and administrators can explore to decide which program will be the best for their students and school.

In an article by Qayyum et al. it states:
Students who use social media with their classwork demonstrate improved grades when compared with non-user classmates. Social media also enhances memorization of information for a long time. It provides understanding to develop relationships with class fellows about classwork and assignments. (204)

Explore the Programs:



Google Classroom

Along with exploring learning management systems there is an option for educators to explore different library applications that will allow students to have a greater selection of books available to them for reading during the workshop. This section of the website also highlights options for using accessibility features on iPad and on Google Chrome devices. These accessibility features can not only help students with special needs but also help general education students as well.

Explore the Apps.



Explore iPad Accessibility



Click the Apple Accessibility icon to learn about how iPad can help with vision, hearing, mobility and learning.

Explore Chromebook Accessibility



Click the Google Chromebook logo to learn how Chromebook can support all learners with features such as screen reader, select-to-speak and Braille support.

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