**Review the Common Core App and Discuss**

* <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/common-core-standards/id439424555?mt=8>

**Literacy Common Core**

* <https://sites.google.com/a/elmhurst205.com/ereader-ipad-apps/ice-presentation-2012-standards-addressed/common-core>
* Grades 2-3 <http://www.techlearning.com/Default.aspx?tabid=67&EntryId=3469>

**Math Common Core Apps: Great jumping off point**

* <http://mathcommoncoreresources.wikispaces.com/iPad+Math+Apps>
* <http://educatorstudio.com/articles/math-apps-get-you-ready-common-core>

**UDL and Common Core- Kathleen McClaskey**

* <http://udlmobileapps.blogspot.com/>
* <http://www.scoop.it/u/kathleen-mcclaskey>

**OS Apps and Resources for Common Core**

* <http://jayemtucker.wikispaces.com/iOS+Apps+%26+Resources+for+Common+Core>

**Digital Bloom's Taxonomy**

* Symbaloo WebMix by Kathy Malsbenden
  + <http://westcarrollton.symbaloo.com/mix/digitalblooms>
* Kathy Schrock's Bloomin' Apps
  + [http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.htm](http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html)
* Kathy Malsbenden's Digital Bloom's Diigo Bookmarks and Group (anyone can join this group.)
  + <http://groups.diigo.com/group/digital_blooms>

**ICT NETS Standards**

* <https://sites.google.com/a/elmhurst205.com/ereader-ipad-apps/ice-presentation-2012-standards-addressed/nets>

**[Learning Systems, "Whiteboards," and "Response Systems"](http://ipadsandeducation.wikispaces.com/Learning+Systems%2C+Whiteboards%2C+and+Response+Systems)**

**iPad deployment**

* <http://www.scoop.it/t/ipad-deployment>

**Other Resources**

* <http://certificationmap.com/5-great-ipad-apps-for-3-5-teachers/>

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.  
  
Apps to help students understand the core standards using iPad Apps:  
These apps are K-5 ELA- **Keys to Detail and Craft and Structure**.  
  
**Keys to Detail:**

1. **Kindergarten**- With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.
2. **First Grade-**Retell stories, including key details, and stories, including key details demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

[Storykit](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storykit/id329374595?mt=8) FREE allows a student to recall details to a story using voice, text, adding pictures and drawing pictures. After completed the notes go onto a bookshelf for the student to refer to.

1. **Second Grade -** Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
2. **Third Grade -** Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain  
   how it is conveyed through key details in the text

[Moral Stories](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/21-short-moral-stories-video/id460786753?mt=8) $1.99 twenty-one moral stories. You can have the story read to you with the app voice or you can record it yourself with your voice. Lessons to the moral of the story are included after each story.  
5. **Fourth Grade** - Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining  
what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.   
[mini-mod reading for inferences lite](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/minimod-reading-for-inferences/id417609375?mt=8) $3.99 helps the student build mastery in the essential reading comprehension skill of inferential thinking. Includes three different grade levels.

1. **Fifth Grade-** Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

[Draw Venn-Diagram for iPad](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/draw-venn-for-ipad/id428470633?mt=8) $.99 A Venn diagram is an illustration of Comparisons and analyze of information in a system. Describe and compare attributes and characteristics of items (things, people, places, events, ideas, etc.)  
  
**Craft and Structure:**

1. **K-**Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

[Audio word web dictionary](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/audio-dictionary-wordweb-american/id308587200?mt=8)$3.99 Pronounces words, intelligent word entry, synonyms, usage examples.

1. **Grade 1**- Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

[Instant Poetry](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-poetry-hd/id353592334?mt=8) $1.99 create your own beautiful, passionate, and romantic poetry, with your own pictures as backgrounds  
6. Grade 2 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.   
[Rhyme-time](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/rhyme-time/id300875960?mt=8) $.99 Rhyme Time now includes rhymes, synonyms, antonyms, definitions, find in definition, related words, similar sounding words, match consonants, and match letters search modes.

1. **Grade 3**Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems 5. when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza;  
   describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

[Chapters](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chapters-notebooks-for-writing/id384499033?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4) $3.99 Chapters lets you create and manage multiple notebooks, each fully searchable and with its own settings.  
5. **Grade 4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).   
[Mythology](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id378039993?mt=8) $.99 15 Greek Mythology Classics- document words and phrases used in each story to see how they allude to significant characters.

1. **Grade 5** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

[iPoetry 101](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ipoetry-101/id332623882?mt=8) $.99 identifying formulas for creating structured forms of poetry. - appreciating the importance of prewriting and revision - using figurative language - creating a sustained image.

# The 20 Best Education Apps And Web Tools Of The Year

Added by [Jeff Dunn](http://edudemic.com/author/edudemic/) on 2012-12-24

[**1**](http://edudemic.com/2012/12/the-20-best-education-apps-and-web-tools-of-the-year/)

**The following is an excerpt from the December issue of Edudemic Magazine.**[***Download the issue for just $.99***](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/edudemic-magazine/id495202697)**to view the full issue and the rest of the list! Stay tuned (or download the magazine) for the best devices of the year!**

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/best-edtech.png)In our year‐end special issue, we’ve worked hard at assembling the best of the best. As you probably know, we publish an array of lists and resources on edudemic.com. It’s our thing. But we have not typically taken the time to assemble those kinds of lists for the iPad magazine. The time has come for us to offer up such a list.

It contains the best (in our opinion and what we’ve heard from educators around the world) resources you should know about. Some are likely new to you, some are already known and worth another try, and others are somewhere in between. In any case, we’re proud to offer you this handy resource for you to enjoy for the entire upcoming year.

It’s the end of the year and that means you have a little extra time for the first time since summer. What better way to spend that time than to sum up the best resources of the year? From the new iPad Mini to Evernote’s latest update, there’s been a lot going on in the education technology world. The following list should serve as a useful guide for any teacher looking to find some interesting new apps, tools, or devices to try out in 2013.

NOTE: These are in no particular order and the list is actually longer in the iPad Magazine. Think an app is missing? It’s impossible to list of all the terrific new (and old) apps and tools but we did our best to showcase some new, some older, and some just plain fun resources. We’re happy to get your input though! Let us know about other tools down in the comments!

[**Evernote**](http://www.evernote.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Use it for: note taking/word processing, voice recording, photos (snapshots of teachers’s notes group work, etc), share work between teachers and students, organize and search all of your notes. Great for students and teachers, sharing, and personal use. Offers free and premium options for use.

[**Instapaper**](http://www.instapaper.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Use it for: Creating ‘read it later’ bookmarks that can be accessed from any device. Great for putting together reading lists for timely topics, or curating a list of potential online resources for a research project or paper. Appropriate for both teacher and student use, users must create a free account.

[**Moodle**](http://www.moodle.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Moodle is a Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a Free web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites. Use it for: Creating online courses, having students reflect on their in class experiences, peer evaluations and teacher evaluations (of student work), facilitate student blogs, host forums, and collaboration between students, teachers, other schools, etc. Moodle offers nearly unlimited possibilities!

[**Dictionary.com**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dictionary.com-dictionary/id308750436?mt=8)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Offers app and web based resources for students (and adults) of any age. Use Dictionary.com for trusted answers to word lookup. The site also houses Thesaurus.com as well as a ‘Word Dynamo’ functionality that lets you learn about new ways to express yourself using the written or spoken word.

[**Skype**](http://www.skype.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Comes in app form or downloadable software format. Skype is by far one of the most used tools in education and business. Better still, it’s free and relatively easy to use. The only hiccups we’ve had using it has been dropped calls. The iOS and Android version are a reliable way to start a pen pal communication or simply to save on your phone bill.

[**Blackboard**](http://www.blackboard.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
You know Blackboard. You’ve probably used it whether you want to or not. We included it in the list of top tools because it’s seen some terrific enhancements over the past year but also the fact that the apps and web-based tools are used by just so many teachers and students around the world. Blackboard has been rolling out numerous new products that you should know about: Blackboard Collaborate, Transact, Mobile, Learn, Connect, Analytics, and Engage. In other words, it’s not going away anytime soon and is worth knowing about.

[**MyHomeworkApp**](http://www.myhomeworkapp.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Keeps track of your homework, projects, tests, and other assignments. You can set reminders for when things are due (or for a deadline to start working on something!), set level of priority, and keep track of your schedule of classes. Great for students and teachers, especially teachers offering a large number of classes – its a great way to keep track of what is due when, and for whom!

[**Dropbox**](http://www.dropbox.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Dropbox is a well known tool to share and sync documents across devices. In a nutshell, it saves us from carrying those pesky thumb drives (floppy discs?!) Use it for your own documents (work at home, access at school), and share documents with your students, classes, and colleagues. Have students submit work (with a timestamp!), collaborate on projects, and use it as a one stop shop for presentations and copies of class handouts so no one can ever claim they ‘lost’ it.

[**iDevBooks**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/column-subtraction/id341040894?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4)**(iOS)**  
iDevBooks is a set of 20 math apps for iPhone and iPad by Esa Helttula. Each app explores a particular mathematical concept. The interface is very basic and thus quite easy to use, and since each concept is contained in its own app, you aren’t stuck buying a large, expensive app which you might only use a small percentage of. These apps get three thumbs up from Edudemic because they’re so easy to use, and focused on making the concepts easy to learn rather than being bogged down with bells, whistles, and ads.

[**Class Dojo**](http://www.classdojo.com/)**(Web, iOS)**  
We’ve been tracking Class Dojo’s evolution since its inception. It’s an outstanding tool that’s seen widespread adoption as it enables teachers to get a quick grasp of all their activities, assignments, and more. Use it as a monitoring tool, or an LMS, or in your own way. However you use it, you can expect Class Dojo to continue to evolve and grow thanks to its track record and the team behind the tool. We’ve met them. They’re enthusiastic about their product and enhancing education. What’s not to love? Oh, it’s free too.

[**Edmodo**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/edmodo/id378352300?mt=8)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Edmodo offers ‘social networking for schools’, and gives students, parents, and teachers a place to connect, share, and collaborate. Individual classes and groups can connect securely and separately, making it particularly appealing for younger groups. Use it for: posting assignments, creating/distributing student polls, collaborate on projects, offer peer feedback, and uploading learning materials for students (like presentations, videos, etc, that are too big to send via email). There are so many different ways to use this tool, and it is appropriate for all grade levels and subjects.

[**Bento**](http://www.filemaker.com/products/bento/)**(Web, iOS)**  
A great tool to get you organized! While there are a lot of ‘organization’ apps out there, this one gets our three thumbs up because of the great templates it comes with – some are for homework organization, others for class lists, to-dos, and more. As a teacher, this gives you tools to manage both your classroom life and home life in one place, where many others are classroom only. Since it comes in both in web and iOS flavors, you can easily organize your info on your desktop or laptop, and sync to have your information handy on the go. Fun hidden uses for you and your students: catalog your passwords, and group memberships and members (useful for a teacher with many classes).

[**iStudiezPro**](http://itunes.apple.com/app/istudiez-pro/id310636441?ign-mpt=uo%3D4&mt=8)**(Web, iOS)**  
Another organization tool? Yep. Because really, when there are so many students and classes on your radar, you need a little help to keep you on track. This tool focuses on scheduling and assignments, so its a great school tool for teachers of all levels, and students as well.

[**Twitter**](http://www.twitter.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
We’re recommending the service in general here. The mobile app from Twitter leaves a bit to be desired and there are plenty of third-party apps out there to do the task you need done. But Twitter as a tool in general is priceless. From digital PLNs to hashtag chats to just simply staying informed, Twitter is the #1 source of information for connected educators. We couldn’t leave it off this list and would expect to see it on here for years to come (at this rate, at least).

[**Learnist**](http://www.learnist.com/)**(Web, iOS)**  
The Grockit folks have been busy building a ‘Pinterest for Educators’ that’s about to become an even bigger beast. Grockit tells Edudemic that the platform is about to undergo some big improvements and the importance will be well understood by curious teachers around the world. From a total redesign to improved mobile apps and features like building your own ‘Learning Boards,’ there’s a lot to look forward to in 2013 from Learnist.

[**Scribd**](http://www.scribd.com/)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Quickly becoming the world’s largest repository of submitted documents, Scribd could some day become akin to the Library of Congress. Except it’s easier to access and is built for a teacher or student on the go. Need a searchable index of documents? How about an embeddable presentation? A social media-friendly URL for that PDF? It’s all here in the Scribd web and mobile apps.

[**iAnnotate**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iannotate-pdf/id363998953?mt=8)**(iOS, Android)**  
For those of you who deal with PDFs on a regular basis, this tool is for you. It allows you (and/or your students) to make notes or changes to PDF documents, which we all know is a pain otherwise. The most useful school-related use for this is probably making notes on presentations and supporting materials for a lecture or unit. It offers you the ability to use a pen, highlighter, strikethrough, and other tools to make your notes as useful as possible. Bonus:  instead of making you move page by page through a document like most mobile PDF readers do, this one allows you to scroll through the whole document if you wish, which we found to be a huge time saver.

[**QuickOffice**](http://www.quickoffice.com/)**(iOS, Android)**  
QuickOffice used to be its own deal, but now its been eaten by the Google Monster. Which should tell you something – Google tools tend to be easy to use with a lot of bang for your buck. QuickOffice comes in two varieties: Plain, and HD flavor. In a nutshell, it enables users to create and edit all MS Office documents, spreadsheets, and presentations (as well as PDFs) on the go. Need to do some last minute editing but there’s no computer in sight? No problem. For every useful thing MS office can be used for, its now available on your mobile device, which makes it that much better.

[**TED Talks**](http://www.ted.com/talks)**(Web, iOS, Android)**  
Using TED Talks in educational arenas is not a new topic of discussion. And TED has even created [TED-Ed](http://ed.ted.com/about#flipThisVideo), dedicated to making videos that are ‘lessons worth sharing’ by letting teachers take an educational video and use their platform to build customized quizzes, discussion guides, and other supporting materials to facilitate making a great lesson plan.

[**Prezi**](http://www.prezi.com/)**(Web)**  
So, a web tool that allows you to make presentations? Perhaps that doesn’t sound too groundbreaking, but this one can be quite useful for a few reasons. First, if you don’t need to make presentations often then you can actually take the time to develop an interactive and in-depth presentation. Trust us, Prezi has all the bells and whistles you need. Second, you can use Prezi for more than presentations. For example, art classes could create the background of the presentation by adding in a work of art. Then, you can add ‘hot spots’ to the art and take students on a virtual tour of the art. How fun is that?

# 25 Ways To Use Tablets In The Classroom

Added by [Julie DeNeen](http://edudemic.com/author/jdeneen/) on 2012-12-17

[**10**](http://edudemic.com/2012/12/25-ways-to-use-tablets-in-the-classroom/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/classroom-tablet-600.jpg)When I was a kid, I dreamt about our school desks as computer screens.

How cool would it have been to be able to draw, write, and learn directly onto my own computer? As the years went on, people theorized that laptops would take over the classroom, but the price of these devices was too high for a 1 to 1 ratio. It never quite caught on in lower grade schools.

***See Also:***[***25 Ways To Use iPads In The Classroom by Degree of Difficulty***](http://edudemic.com/2012/04/25-ways-to-use-ipads-in-the-classroom/)

Now, it is the age of the tablet. We have affordable high-powered computers that can provide all sorts of enrichment through an intuitive touch screen interface and the education world is taking notice. More and more classrooms are imagining the curriculum in the context of EACH child having his or her own tablet.

Yet, some educators are still skeptical. How can a piece of technology truly enhance the learning process, without causing distraction?

## 1. Art

In a subject like art, people might think, “How could a tablet be useful? Isn’t it about organic materials?”

It is, but what about an app that helps with color matching and combination, or tools for interior design where the child can map out their project in concept before getting to work? Of course, there are fantastic drawing apps as well, and students can use a stylus for more precision.

When they are done, they can share in galleries with other students for critique and encouragement.

## 2. Music

App developers have continually surprised the public with the complexity of tools they are able to create for tablets. Students can write their own music, record a song with an app like Garage Band or Studio Track, or download music history encyclopedias that provide interactive songs and information about all the greatest classics.

Music theory is fun when you employ the use of Piano Pro or others that allow students to try out an instrument without having to purchase a piano.

## 3. Video connections

Classrooms are their own little society and for years, teachers have aimed to broaden horizons through pen pal programs and field trips. With video chat as a standard feature on most tablets, students can watch a veterinarian perform surgery or have a [Google+ hangout](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/trends/gauging-g-classrooms-how-teachers-can-go-beyond-the-realms-of-social-media/) with a class halfway across the world.

It is an affordable way to see the world without having to actually leave the room.

## 4. Science

Some of the coolest apps on the market are geared towards science buffs. Your class will come alive when you assign them the job of using Star Walk for iPad, an app that will label stars and constellations in the night sky. Don’t like to dissect a frog?

There’s an app for that.

Everything from the periodic table of elements to brain science, anatomy, plants, glossaries- apps can be the springboard for scientific curiosity.

## 5. Presentations

Public speaking is an important skill for students to learn.

Gone are the days of PowerPoint presentations with little lasers. Now, tablets have fantastic apps that can be used to do real-time drawing, writing, and animation during a presentation. Students can circle, highlight, or write in points as they present their latest research or findings.

When they are done, the presentation is saved and can be emailed to the teacher for grading.

## 6. History

History can be a difficult subject for young children who are notoriously stationed in the present day. However tablets can bring to life ancient civilizations through interactive ebooks, videos, and even games that outline the trials and hardships of the people who’ve gone before us. I remember playing the Oregon Trail as a child and loving the concept. Now the Oregon Trail can be played on a tablet and students can collaborate together to accomplish missions.

## 7. Writing

Blogs are a great way to get students interested in writing.

The act of putting words on paper can be lonely and tedious, but with real-time responses and comments, it triggers motivation for some children. Rather than writing a book report that will get thrown into the recycling bin at home, have them journal and blog about the book they are reading, inviting feedback from their classmates.

## 8. Photos

Photography is not only a skill in and of itself; it is also a great way to document projects and research. Almost every tablet on the market comes with a quality camera that can be used to take still pictures or videos. Imagine your students getting excited by the prospect of photo documenting their town, a nature walk, or writing biographies of each student in the class.

For higher-level grades, there are apps that can help teach important photography taking and editing skills.

Read more about [20 out-of-the-box ways to use Instagram in the classroom](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/trends/20-out-of-the-box-ideas-to-use-instagram-in-your-classroom/).

## 9. Research

Every project starts with a bit of research. Not only do tablets give students the largest knowledge database at their fingertips, but why not have them write for Wikipedia after finishing a report on Ancient Egypt?

Research that is to be used for the furthering of human knowledge somehow seems more purposeful this way.

## 10. Connections

Tablets provide an instantaneous connection between parents, students, and teachers. It may be easy to lose a handwritten note or assignment, but as the tablet goes back and forth between home and school, parents can monitor their student’s assignments, teachers can notify parents, and all around connections can be sustained.

## 11. E-books

Textbooks are expensive. They are also hard on the environment and inefficient. When the information is outdated, an entire new version must be released. E-books solve this problem. Not only can students highlight and bookmark easily, they can even be inspired to create their own e-book!

Tablets may be an investment, but when you add up the [cost and time of textbooks](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/trends/why-arent-we-using-e-textbooks-yet/), you realize how quickly it pays itself back.

## 12. Eco-friendly

Following on the previous item, tablets are a huge savings for the environment. Paper waste is eliminated, along with the unnecessary time of collating, copying, and printing out documents that are destined for the trash anyway. Imagine the amount of paper saved if a child went through 12 years of schooling using a tablet for all his e-books, papers, projects, and studies?

That is a lot of paper!

## 13. Efficiency

Tablets are more efficient. Teachers can pre-list assignments for the day and student’s can see the schedule before even arriving. Communication is fast and instant between the teacher and child as well. There is less time grading, sorting, and filing.

## 14. Money Management

The world’s current financial crisis highlights a crack in education; we aren’t raising our children to manage money properly. With tablets in the classroom, older students can use stock market apps or budgeting apps to simulate what it would be like to own a business or a run a household.

Younger children can use games that teach them not only how to identify coins and dollars, but how to spend and save too.

## 15. Social Media

Despite the continued negative association with social media as an addictive time waster, there are lots of benefits to having a mini “facebook” platform for the classroom.

Kids can post homework or writing assignments and get feedback. Students can practice encouraging one another with positive support. The teacher can also monitor the digital “atmosphere” of the room and [make sure no bullying](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/15-strategies-educators-can-use-to-stop-cyberbullying/) or cliques are forming. These classroom platforms help bond students together and provide a safe way to share.

## 16. Simulation

It might be too expensive to test fly a jet or scale Mount Everest, but [simulation games](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/top-20-uses-of-virtual-worlds-in-education/) have been around a long time- used to train surgeons, pilots, and military. For a career unit, why not have each student choose a skill and run a simulation game? At the end of the unit, they can write a report about the advantages and disadvantages.

Games, when used in moderation, can [boost creativity and imagination](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/30-surprising-research-findings-about-how-students-learn/).

## 17. Computer Skills

The world is run by computers and the more adept students are at navigating them, the better equipped they will be for the real world. Having a tablet in the classroom for each student guarantees that children will have the necessary typing and other skills necessary for future jobs.

In addition to generic computer skills, there are fantastic apps that teach computer coding, computer development, and other IT skills that can benefit them in the long run.

## 18. Personal Responsibility

Tablets force students to learn about personal responsibility. Losing a tablet is much more pricey than losing a homework assignment or a book. While some may argue that children aren’t capable of handling such an expensive device, as long as schools use the industrial strength covers, students can easily be expected to take care of and keep track of their tablet computer.

## 19. Fiscal Savings

Tablets run anywhere from $200-$600 a piece. For a class size of 20, this can be upwards of $12,000.00.

That may seem like a lot, but when you think about the amount of free tools, resources, and books that are available on the iPad  (for example), you will quickly see that to purchase the same amount of equipment and books would cost thousands more. The camera alone would be about $200.00 per child. Then there is the cost of copying, ink, drawing tools, etc.

Tablets are a fiscally responsible option.

Read more about why [BYOD is a good idea](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/trends/bring-your-own-device-byod-10-reasons-why-its-a-good-idea/).

## 20. Testing

Do you remember filling in those little bubble tests for the machine to check and see if you were smart?

Those testing methods may be efficient, but with a  tablet, teachers can use all sorts of innovative ways to gauge how well their students are learning the material. YouTube has a [beta style testing tool](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/trends/using-youtube-to-educate-and-test/) where students answer questions during a video lecture. Proctored online exams can be taken on tablets as well. These exams free the teacher to spend more time teaching and less time grading.

Charts, graphs, and classroom analysis is easy when test scores are already digitized.

## 21. Learning Styles

Do you have one student that learns better when they listen to a lecture rather than read? With a tablet, you can teach the same information in [different ways to different students](http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/educational-psychology-20-things-educators-need-to-know-about-how-students-learn/).

A history lesson might work better for some to read, some to listen to the audio, and still some to interact with a game that tests them on important points along the way. It is impossible for a teacher to cater to each individual student’s learning style, but the tablet can help with this immensely.

## 22. Choices

Psychologically, children do better when they are offered choices. Students that are labeled with ADHD or other behavioral problems may benefit when a teacher is able to say, “Okay, today we are learning our multiplication facts. There are several games you can choose from.”

This way, the student feels a sense of empowerment in his own learning and the teacher is able to give autonomy to the child.

## 23. Special needs

For those who are deaf, tablets can be a lifesaver. Others with different handicaps (autism, down syndrome, etc.) can have their curriculum tailored through specific apps that help them learn through the faculties they have.

An autistic student may not be able to sit in a group of children and voice his opinion, but maybe he could write it out in an online format? As tablets become more commonplace, I’ll bet we start to see more special education tools for educators.

## 24. Foreign Language

Need to learn another language, but don’t have a teacher who is fluent in a language like Dutch or Mandarin?

There’s an app for that! Students can have an individualized foreign language program, with one learning Spanish, and another learning German. Once they’ve mastered some skills, why not use Google Hangouts or Skype to connect with a pen pal across the world?

## 25. Current events

Keep up with the latest news around the world. Maybe your students are used to reading CNN, but with a tablet, they can check out news outlets from around the world and even have lively discussions about how biased the media is depending on the nation.

The media is a huge influence in our lives and learning how to think critically without swallowing information is crucial.

# The 20+ Apps To Know About In 2013

Added by [Davide Savenije](http://edudemic.com/author/davide/" \o "Posts by Davide Savenije) on 2012-12-15

[**42**](http://edudemic.com/2012/12/the-20-apps-to-know-about-in-2013/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/apps-of-2013.png)Education got a lot more mobile in 2012 as in-school [iPad initiatives](http://www.educationdive.com/news/18-ipad-uses-how-classrooms-are-benefiting-from-apples-tablets/68569/" \t "_self), the [iPhone 5 launch](http://www.educationdive.com/news/13-iphone-5-apps-to-make-higher-ed-easier/55000/)and [online learning providers](http://www.educationdive.com/news/7-blackboard-competitors-with-online-learning-solutions/35847/) in general made classroom experiences more interesting—and don’t expect to see teaching head back to desktop PC’s in 2013. In fact, as[MOOCs](http://www.educationdive.com/news/8-questions-moocs-face-in-2013/75870/) and [hybrid programs](http://www.educationdive.com/news/will-hybrid-programs-be-the-moocs-of-2013/80803/)continue to evolve, mobile should have an ever more significant role to play.

Looking back at some of 2012′s most significant app launches and updates, Education Dive assembled a list of a few of the best apps on iOS and Android devices that we think educators should know about for 2013. Some of these are already out in the wild, and some are still twinkles in their developers’ eyes. All of 23 of them stand to be important, however, in the new year:

**1. SPIN**  
**Publisher:** Net Power & Light  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/togetherlearn/id548411521?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – requires iOS 5.0 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone who wants to learn collaboratively  
**Price:** Free

[Spin](http://getspin.com/) is bringing interactive learning into the 21st century—the [TogetherLearn](http://getspin.com/experiences/togetherlearn/" \t "_blank) mobile app allows online learners to virtually recreate traditional classroom elements. Users can pause or fast-forward lectures, skip to another video, write on a digital chalkboard and debate with other users.

**2. COURSERA**  
**Publisher:**Coursera  
**Platform:** Unreleased  
**Audience:** MOOC participants, presumably  
**Price:**N/A

The coming year will have [far-reaching implications for massive open online courses](http://www.educationdive.com/news/8-questions-moocs-face-in-2013/75870/) (MOOCs) and, consequently, the future of education. Coursera, the for-profit online learning provider founded by two Stanford University professors, is quickly rising to the top of an emerging market. Coursera, like the other big players, is expected to release a mobile app to sate their technologically adept users. In fact, a [job listing](https://www.coursera.org/about/jobs) on Coursera’s website indicates that the company is currently looking for mobile engineers with iOS expertise. Look for this to be one of the more memorable mobile app developments if something ships in 2013.

**3. DESIRE2LEARN CAMPUS APPS**  
**Publisher:** Desire2Learn  
**Platform:**Android, iOS and BlackBerry devices  
**Audience:** Students, educators and campus administrators of many types  
**Price:** N/A

Desire2Learn’s suite of options for its campus apps is always evolving. For instance, the company recently added [security features from Guardly](http://www.educationdive.com/news/guardly-brings-security-features-to-desire2learns-mobile-app/76261/) to its offerings. Look no further than[Desire2Learn.com](http://www.desire2learn.com/products/mobile/) to read more about the grading and campus life options that are already accessible, but read up on [Desire2Learn Binder](http://www.desire2learn.com/products/mobile/binder/) if you want to know more about what to expect in the coming year.

**4. UDEMY**  
**Publisher:** Udemy  
**Platform:** [iPad](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/udemy/id562413829?mt=8" \t "_blank) (with more to come)  
**Audience:**Udemy students & instructors  
**Price:** Free

[Udemy’s mobile app](http://venturebeat.com/2012/11/07/udemys-new-ipad-app-turns-idle-minutes-into-learning-opportunities/) already brought online learning to the iPad. Users can take classes, save lectures for offline viewing and interact with other users from their iPads to make the most of the burgeoning online learning experience. Looking ahead, the company just announced [$12 million in new funding](http://www.educationdive.com/news/udemy-announces-12-million-in-new-funding-to-expand-video-learning-offerin/79601/), and as [President and COO Dennis Yang told us](http://www.educationdive.com/news/udemys-mobile-future-10-perspectives-from-president-coo-dennis-yang/79567/), new mobile apps on platforms such as iPhone, Android and Windows devices are going to be a big part of Udemy’s new year plans.

**5. VERIVO HIGHER EDUCATION PLATFORM**  
**Publisher:** Verivo  
**Platform:** Android, Apple and Blackberry  
**Audience:** Universities  
**Price:** N/A

[Verivo’s platform for higher education](http://www.verivo.com/customers/industry-examples/higher-education/) furnishes universities with a comprehensive mobile app. Institutions can commission a customizable app that gives students access to grades, schedules, campus alerts and contact directories, among other things. Faculty can use it to track assignments, post a class schedule and communicate with their students while alumni can receive university news, view/post job opportunities and donate with one click.

**6. GENIUS SCAN**  
**Publisher:** The Grizzly Labs  
**Platform:** [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thegrizzlylabs.geniusscan&hl=en) (requires 2.3 or later) & [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/genius-scan-pdf-scanner/id377672876?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch, iPad – requires iOS 5.1 or later)  
**Audience:**Anyone in need of an on-the-go scanner  
**Price:** Free (Apple)/$0.99 (Android)

Tired of saving receipts? Hate going to the library to scan one page? Look no further — the [Genius Scan](http://www.thegrizzlylabs.com/genius-scan/) app transforms hand-held devices into a mobile scanner to create digital copies of documents.

**7. MIND NODE**  
**Publisher:** IdeasOnCanvas  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mindnode/id312220102?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch, iPad – requires iOS 5.1 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone who wants to map out their ideas  
**Price:** $9.99

[Mind Node](http://mindnode.com/#%21/touch) is an elegant mobile mind mapping app with which users can readily structure their ideas.

**8. WORDFLEX TOUCH DICTIONARY**  
**Publisher:** Schematix  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wordflex-touch-dictionary/id488540344?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – requires iOS 4.0 or later)  
**Audience:**English language enthusiasts & anyone looking for just the right word  
**Price:** $11.99

[Wordflex Touch Dictionary](http://schematix.com/wordflex/index.html) is a visually engaging mobile dictionary that takes full advantage of the touch-screen platform by giving users the means to sweep through expansive word trees with a flick of the finger.

**9. BLACKBOARD MOBILE LEARN**  
**Publisher:** Blackboard  
**Platform:** [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.blackboard.android&hl=en) (varies with device), [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/blackboard-mobile-learn/id376413870?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 5.1 or later) & Blackberry (4.3 or later)  
**Audience:** Students, faculty & administration at Blackboard-friendly institutions  
**Price:** Free to download, but access is $1.99 for a year and $5.99 unlimited

The [Blackboard Mobile Learn](http://www.blackboard.com/resources/mobile/mobile_learn_splash/desktop/portal-nonsprint.html#ipad) app brings the Blackboard platform to hand-held devices. Students can access assignments, view grades and engage in discussion boards while professors can post assignments and manage their classes on-the-go.

**10. SOCRATIVE STUDENT CLICKER**  
**Publisher:** Socrative  
**Platform:**[Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.socrative.student&hl=en) (requires 2.1 or later) & [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/student-clicker-socrative/id477618130?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 4.3 or later)  
**Audience:**Students & faculty (6-12 & Higher Ed)  
**Price:** Free

The [Socrative Student Clicker platform](http://www.socrative.com/" \t "_blank) enables a new form of interactive classroom engagement — teachers can create shareable activities, gather feedback and test students all from their mobile devices.

**11. VOICETHREAD**  
**Publisher:** VoiceThread.com  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/voicethread/id465159110?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 4.2 or later)  
**Audience:** Preschoolers to professors  
**Price:** Free

[VoiceThread](http://voicethread.com/) is an interactive multimedia app which enables collaborative communication — write, draw and record your thoughts on shared documents, images and videos. Although early versions were met with mixed results, the concept behind VoiceThread has the potential to revolutionize the way we communicate in our increasingly digital age.

**12. POWERTEACHER**  
**Publisher:** Pearson School Systems  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/powerteacher-mobile/id390563073?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – requires iOS 4.3 or later)  
**Audience:** K-12 schools  
**Price:** Free

[PowerTeacher](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/powerteacher-mobile/id390563073?mt=8) is a classroom management solution for the iPad. Teachers can post assignments and grades, access classroom statistics, take notes and communicate with students. However, for use, school districts need to already be using the PowerSchool informations system.

**13. TEACHER AIDE PRO**  
**Publisher:** In Pocket Solutions  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glen.apps.TeacherAidePro&hl=en" \t "_blank) (requires 2.2 or later)  
**Audience:** Teachers  
**Price:** $7.99

[Teacher Aide Pro](https://sites.google.com/site/teacheraidepro/) is a classroom management app that empowers teachers to take attendance, fill in their gradebooks and communicate with students and parents from their mobile devices.

**14. SCREEN VNC**  
**Publisher:** Edovia  
**Platform:**[iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/screens-vnc-control-your-computer/id400012962?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 5.0 or later)  
**Audience:**Those who need to control their computer(s) from their device(s)  
**Price:** $19.99

Forgot your computer at home? Can’t quite bring your PC to class? Have no fear – [Screen VNC](http://edovia.com/en/screens.html)enables computer-to-device synchronization. With it, users can control far-away computers from the palms of their hands.

**15. EDUCREATIONS INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD**  
**Publisher:** Educreations  
**Platform:**[iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/educreations-interactive-whiteboard/id478617061?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – requires iOS 4.3 or later)  
**Audience:** Teachers  
**Price:** Free  
[Educreations](http://www.educreations.com/) enables users to galvanize presentations with interactive text, diagrams, audio and video.

**16. EZPDF READER**  
**Publisher:** Unidocs  
**Platform:** [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=udk.android.reader&hl=en) (requires 2.1 or later) & [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ezpdf-reader-pdf-reader-annotator/id396101792?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 4.3 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone who needs an interactive PDF player  
**Price:** $3.99

[ezPDF Reader](http://m.unidocs.com/) allows users to read, highlight, fill out and take notes in embedded multimedia documents from a mobile device.

**17. DRAGON DICTATION**  
**Publisher:** Nuance Communications  
**Platform:**[iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 4.0 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone who wants to turn speech into text  
**Price:** Free

[Dragon Dictation](http://www.nuancemobilelife.com/apps/dragon-dictation) records speech and churns out a reliable text transcription. Dictate ideas, record lectures or simply send an email without typing. But it does require an Internet connection.

**18. PENULTIMATE**  
**Publisher:** Evernote  
**Platform:**[iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/penultimate/id354098826?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – iOS 3.2 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone who wants a mobile notebook  
**Price:** $0.99

From the makers of [Evernote](http://evernote.com/" \t "_blank), the best-selling note-taking app, [Penultimate](https://evernote.com/penultimate/) enables users to hand-write thoughts and ideas, take notes, sketch designs and save them all to their iPads.

**19. ARTICLES**  
**Publisher:**Sophiestication Software  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/articles/id364881979?mt=8" \t "_blank) ([iPhone](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/articles-for-iphone/id317065689?mt=8), iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 5.1 or later)  
**Audience:** Mobile Wikipedia users  
**Price:**$4.99/$2.99 (iPhone)

A mobile Wikipedia reading app, [Articles](http://sophiestication.com/articles/) furnishes users with an engaging interface to swiftly search and browse Wikipedia’s expansive archives.

**20. DOCERI**  
**Publisher:** SP Controls  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/doceri/id412443803?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad – requires iOS 5.0 or later)  
**Audience:** Teachers  
**Price:** Free

[Doceri](http://doceri.com/) is an interactive whiteboarding and screencasting app — teachers can create and present projects all from their iPads.

**21. NEARPOD**  
**Publisher:** Panarea  
**Platform:** [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nearpod/id523540409?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 4.3 or later)  
**Audience:** Teachers & students  
**Price:** Free

With [Nearpod](http://www.nearpod.com/" \t "_blank), teachers can administer content to their students while controlling the pace and flow of a given lesson, enabling simultaneous student engagement and teacher assessment.

**22. WI-FI FINDER**  
**Publisher:**JiWire  
**Platform:**[Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.jiwire.android.finder&hl=en) (varies with device) & [iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wi-fi-finder/id300708497?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPhone, iPod touch & iPad – requires iOS 3.2 or later)  
**Audience:** Anyone seeking a wi-fi hotspot  
**Price:**Free

Having trouble finding a nearby internet connection to use one of these exciting mobile apps? [Wi-Fi Finder](http://www.jiwire.com/iphone) solves that problem, supplying users with maps pinpointing Wi-Fi hotspots, free or otherwise.

**23. LEARNIST**  
**Publisher:**Grockit  
**Platform:**[iOS](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learnist/id522850398?mt=8" \t "_blank) (iPad and iPhone)  
**Audience:** Students and teachers of all things  
**Price:**Free

Grockit put out one of our favorite new iOS releases of the year with their app treatment for Learnist, a sort of Pinterest for education. For swapping lesson ideas or teaching or taking quick video lessons on a vast range of topics, this app is all set. We’re eager to see if it hits any new platforms in 2013.

# 10 Popular Tools Being Used On iPads In The Classroom

Added by [Felecia Young](http://edudemic.com/author/youngfm30/) on 2012-11-24

[**14**](http://edudemic.com/2012/11/ipads-in-the-classroom-tools/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/apple-ipad-mini.jpeg)My students love using their iPads in the classroom! iPads in the classroom provide student with the opportunity not to be restricted to the traditional way of learning.

As a teacher, it is a wonderful feeling to see students being engaged and interacting in their learning. Since our school’s 1:1 iPad initiative in all Math and Science classrooms, I have become passionate about finding technology tools that will motivate and inspire my students to learn. Great use of iPads technology tools directly impacts the learning environment of the classroom.

The following is a list of free apps and websites that I have found that really motivates and inspires my students to be actively engaged in their learning.

**(1)**[**Today’s Meet**](http://todaysmeet.com/)~ A backchannel website that helps you connect with students in real time. Can be used as a communication tool for collaboration, exit slips, assessing prior knowledge or understandng of lessons.

**(2)**[**Corkboard.me**](https://corkboard.me/) ~ A website that allow students to collaborate in real time with the use of sticky notes on a board.

**(3)**[**Study Blue**](http://www.studyblue.com/) ~ This app and website provide students with the opportunity to create online flashcards to use as review. Students can review with the flashcards or take a practice test.

**(4) [Fotobabble](http://www.fotobabble.com/" \t "_blank)** ~ Fotobabble can be used as an app or website to allow students to use photos and a voice recording to demonstrate their understanding of a topic. This works great in math. Students can work on a problem, take a screen shot of the work, and record the steps they took to solve it.

**(5)**[**Sonic Pics**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sonicpics/id345295488?mt=8) and **(6)**[**Doodle Buddy**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/doodle-buddy-paint-draw-scribble/id313232441?mt=8)~ This duo is a perfect pair. Students can create and annotate pictures in Doodle Buddy then use those pictures in their Sonic Pics presentation. Students can also add a voice recorder to explain each picture.

**(7)**[**Poll Everywhere**](http://www.polleverywhere.com/) ~ This is a great digital tool that allow teachers to create multiple choice or open-ended assessments or surveys. Students can use these assessments or surveys on their iPads, mobile phones, or the computer.

**(8) [Evernote](http://evernote.com/" \t "_blank)** ~ Evernote is a wonderful free app and website for students to be creative and stay organized. Evernote provides students with the opportunity to create a digital file of their notes, projects, assignments, and more.

**(9) [Socrative](http://www.socrative.com/" \t "_blank)** ~ This fun assessment tool is a smart study response system that allows teachers to assess students in a creative way. A generated report is provided with student responses.

**(10) [Fakebook](http://www.classtools.net/fb/home/page" \t "_blank)**~ A wonderful education form of Facebook. A great site with many possibilities, collaboration, discussion boards, projects, assignments, parent communication, and more. I have had much success with these digital tools with my students.

I strongly believe the integration of technology in the classroom results in highly engaging and personalized learning. Students show more pride in their learning when they can actively participate in it. The iPad is a great digital tool with many possibilities for motivate and inspire student learning!

# 10 Ways To Use Technology To Teach Writing

Added by [Katie Lepi](http://edudemic.com/author/katie/) on 2012-11-16

[**16**](http://edudemic.com/2012/11/10-high-tech-ways-to-teach-writing/)

Both high-tech innovations for learning and the inability of many American schoolchildren to write well have been major talking points in educational circles for quite some time, but oddly enough, one may offer a solution to helping remedy the other.

There are a variety of tech tools and methods out there for teaching writing that can make the process easier and more fun for both teachers and students. While not every high-tech way of teaching writing will work for every class or every student, there’s enough variety that there’s bound to be something for everyone.

Here, we offer just a few tech-focused ways to help students learn grammar, essay-writing, and, most importantly, why good writing is so important to their futures.

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/hi-tech-writing.jpg)

### [AUTOMATED PROGRAMS CAN GIVE MORE FEEDBACK ON STUDENT WRITING](http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/10/a-high-tech-solution-to-the-writing-crisis/263675).

With many teachers trying to grade the work of a hundred or more students, giving the kind of comments and insights that students need to succeed can be difficult, if not impossible. While budgets can’t allow for teachers to take on a lighter class load, there are some high-tech solutions to the problem that can ensure that students get the help they need and that teachers aren’t overburdened with grading. Increasingly complex and comprehensive programs are available to help students fix errors in their writing, and can offer feedback during the writing process, when it matters most. Students can use the feedback to make changes before handing in a paper and can get it in more manageable chunks so that it won’t feel overwhelming. While programs like these are still evolving, they will undoubtedly become a go-to tool to help teachers teach students writing in the coming decades.

### [GRAMMAR TUTORIALS CAN FILL IN THE GAPS](http://odl.vwv.at/english/odlres/res8/Grammar/grammar.htm).

Many students struggle to understand grammatical principles, even if they’ve been taught them in class. They simply can’t bridge the gap between the conceptual idea and putting it into practice in their real-life work. Direct interactions with teachers can help, but tech can offer another avenue for overburdened teachers. There are hundreds of sites that provide grammar tutorials, some that even come complete with exercises and activities to engage students and help fill gaps in their knowledge. New software is also being released that can help students as they write, addressing grammar issues as they happen. With this kind of support and guidance, students can learn to become better writers both from teachers and from technology.

### [USE TRACKING TO REPORT STUDENT PROGRESS TO TEACHERS](http://www.meritsoftware.com/software/essay_punch).

Writing-focused software is also available to help teachers keep an eye on student progress as they produce a paper or complete an assignment. One such product is called Essay Punch. It helps students through the process of writing an essay step-by-step, from pre-writing to publishing, even offering contextual help and feedback throughout. It also allows teachers to monitor the progress, or lack of it, that students are making in crafting their essays. It’s not the only product of its kind, and tools like this can make it possible for students to get help from start to finish not only from their teachers but also as they write each word of an assignment.

### [MAKE WRITING A MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE](http://www.edweek.org/tsb/articles/2011/04/04/02digital.h04.html).

Today, there are hundreds of free multimedia tools out there for teachers to use in the classroom, many of which combine perfectly with writing assignments that challenge and engage students. Looking for some ideas? Some teachers ask students to combine videos they’ve shot with poetry they’ve written or to write the scripts for short films. Others allow students to turn their stories into animations. While a small investment in technology may be necessary to get these kinds of programs off the ground, many teachers report that students who get to be creative and use high-tech tools to augment their writing actually work harder, are more willing to revise, and want to create something that will be truly great, not just please the teacher.

### [USE TECHNOLOGY TO COLLABORATE ON WRITING PROJECTS](http://www.google.com/educators/weeklyreader.html).

New technology makes it easier than ever for students to collaborate on just about anything, including writing projects. Even free products like Google Drive allow students to work together on a project or to give each other feedback that can be useful in the writing process. Teachers can also chime in so long as documents are shared. While there are numerous platforms that allow for collaboration, Google has actually created a tutorial and some useful materials in partnership with Writing for Teens for teachers and students to use that can make collaborative writing with the web-based service easy and productive.

### [USE BLOGS](http://www.amazon.com/Because-Digital-Writing-Matters-Environments/dp/0470407727).

Blogs force students to create writing that is geared toward a wider audience, which can give quite different results than asking students to craft an essay or a journal that will be read by the teacher alone. There are a number of education-centered blogging sites that can help to address any security and safety issues parents might have and still allow students to craft web-ready writing. On these sites, students can work together to craft a classroom blog or work independently to develop a blog on a given topic. Much of the writing students will do in their future work may be digitally-based, so learning to write in the digital sphere is a key skill to develop. What’s more, most kids love getting the chance to share their writing through a blog, so it can be great motivation for reluctant writers.

### [COMPOSE WRITING ON A TABLET](http://thejournal.com/articles/2011/09/06/ipads-make-better-readers-writers.aspx).

Tablets are becoming a standard tool in today’s classrooms, and writing hasn’t been exempt from their influence, and for good reason. Tablets offer an easy way for students to share and view what they’re witting. They can also be loaded up with apps that can help students to practice grammar, translate their writing into other media, or work together with classmates on a variety of different projects. Research supports their use, too. A recent study found that students who had access to a tablet in their classroom were 6% more likely to pass a state reading exam and 8% more likely to pass a state writing exam.

### [UTILIZE COMMON CORE WEB TOOLS](http://www.studysync.com/our-product/what-is-studysync).

As Common Core standards begin to be applied to schools in most states, many teachers are looking for ways to help students tackle the new writing guidelines laid out by Common Core, many of which focus much more heavily on non-fiction writing. Common Core may not be nationwide just yet, but there are already useful tech tools that teachers can use to teach students writing within the new guidelines. One such site is StudySync, which provides access to hundreds of digital books, offers weekly writing practice, has online writing and peer review, and even incorporates multimedia writing lessons. It offers a pretty rich assortment of tools that can be useful in helping teachers adapt to new standards, and in getting students at any level to learn to love (and excel at) writing.

### [FIND A REAL WORLD APPLICATION](http://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2012/01/10/write_bb.html).

Sadly, many students hate writing because they find it boring and not particularly useful. Many students just aren’t learning practical ways to apply what they learn and create. After all, when was the last time you had to write a five-paragraph essay for, well, anything? Experts suggest that teachers can facilitate greater student engagement through emphasizing the real-world purpose of student writing. The Web can be a valuable tool for doing that, as much of the communication students do these days is via online forum. Students can compare and contrast products, write short essays detailing their position on a particular issue, or even build research-based websites that can inform and educate readers.

### [USE TECH TO PUBLISH STUDENT WORK](http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/11/six-ways-for-students-to-publish-their.html).

When students are proud of the work they’ve done, they love seeing it in published. Additionally, knowing something will be published for others to see can motivate students to produce better work from the get-go. There are a wide range of publication options online that teachers can use to promote student work. Students can be featured on a school website or blog, but other sites offer different options. Google Drive and Zoho Writer make it possible to turn a writing assignment into a webpage and Yudu and Issuu help make them into a newsletter or e-book. Those are just a few of the many options out there that can help to get students excited about writing. This is a cross-post from our content partner,[BestOnlineColleges.](http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/)

# 20 Must-Have Digital Teaching Tools For Parents

Added by [Jeff Dunn](http://edudemic.com/author/edudemic/) on 2012-10-18

[**1**](http://edudemic.com/2012/10/teaching-tools-for-parents/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/apps-for-parents.png)Parents have it tough. They’re tasked with ensuring their children have the best nutrition, experiences, and education. There’s basically a library of apps that can help you out with all three.

Edudemic is all about education though so let’s start there. A new resource from our content partners at [Best Colleges Online](http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2012/10/14/20-essential-e-teaching-tools-for-parents/) has a bunch of useful [apps that are highly recommended](http://edudemic.com/?s=apps) for any parent looking to grab hold of some useful [digital teaching tools](http://edudemic.com/2012/10/40-quick-ways-to-use-mobile-phones-in-classrooms/). From BrainPOP to ABC PocketPhonics, there’s something in this list that will likely help you connect with your children and students just a little bit better. After all, isn’t that what [apps](http://edudemic.com/2012/10/net-power-sandel-ipad-app/) are all about?

### [Shake-a-Phrase](http://www.shakeaphrase.com/)

From Artgig Studios, this $1.99 app for the iPhone and iPad makes language learning fun. Using the Story Starter function, you can begin to compose an amusing tale. Then, each time you shake the device, it produces a new wacky sentence, scrambling the words at random, not unlike Mad Libs. One of the sample sentences given: “The fanciful sailor yelled at and saved the chilly witch.” When you see a word you don’t recognize, you can tap that word and get a definition. There’s also a quiz mode.

### [abc PocketPhonics](http://www.appsinmypocket.com/)

This app teaches kids to sound out and combine letters, and even includes a handwriting tool so they can trace letters with their fingers. It’s available for $2.99 in the App Store.

### [Jungle Time](http://jungleeducation.com/)

Jungle Time, available for the iPad and iPhone, aims to teach young children how to tell time. Its appealing graphics (different cartoon animal faces appear as the “face” of the clock) is sure to amuse.

### [BrainPOP Featured Movie](http://www.brainpop.com/about/mobile/)

Every day, a different short educational animated movie is showcased by the edutainment specialists at BrainPOP, which was created by Avraham Kadar, M.D., an immunologist and pediatrician. BrainPOP has a huge stash of resources in the categories of Science, Social Studies, English, Math, Engineering & Tech, Health, and Arts & Music, plus extra features such as, currently, a spotlight on the election.

### [The Elements: A Visual Exploration](http://periodictable.com/ipad/)

This super-cool iPad app is an interactive periodic table that lets you explore the world of chemistry and examine specimens of each element up close (even in 3D … though it’s BYOG, bring your own glasses)! It’s also available for the iPhone, though the big screen adds a lot.

### [Intro to Math](http://montessorium.com/)

The visual elegance of this app from Montessorium led to it being featured in an Apple ad. Its interactive modules teach basic counting skills. Montessorium also offers other apps, all informed, of course, by the Montessori teaching philosophy, such as Intro to Letters, Intro to Geography, and the newly revamped Alpha Writer.

### [Britannica Kids: Dinosaurs](http://corporate.eb.com/apps/)

Though Encyclopedia Britannica has had a hard couple of decades, getting pummeled first by Encarta CD-ROMs and then by Wikipedia, and finally announced this year they would cease publishing a paper edition, they still exist as an electronic concern, and have begun creating educational apps rich with the kind of detail you’d expect. Besides Dinosaurs, they offer immersive educational experiences in U.S. Presidents, Snakes, Knights and Castles, Aztec Empire, Ancient Rome, Rainforests, Solar System, Ancient Egypt, and Volcanoes.

### [Word Whiz Electronic Flashcard](http://omaha.learningexpresstoys.com/buy/lt6964/word-whiz-electronic-flashcard/)

This $16.99 toy tests and improves children’s word-building skills with three levels of difficulty. The goal is to build as many three-, four-, or five-letter words as possible within a minute. Perfect for kindergarteners who are enamored of gadgets and learning to wield words.

### [Kids Money](http://www.appsrocket.com/kidsmoney.html)

A free app from AppsRocket, this tool is meant to help young children begin to understand the value of money and the idea of budgeting. They can use it to track their allowance savings until they reach a target amount to buy the treat of their choosing.

### [DragonBox](http://dragonboxapp.com/)

Available for iPhone, iPod Touch Mac, iPad, and Android, this virtual card game does something brilliant: it begins to teach kids algebra without their knowing it. Better yet, it’s actually fun: you move through five “worlds” with 20 levels each, and as you solve equations, dragons hatch and grow. In Norway, where it was produced, it quickly became the #1 most downloaded app.

### [ALPHIE](http://www.hasbro.com/playskool/en_US/shop/details.cfm?R=37C4291A-19B9-F369-10BF-EC1BA496D865:en_US&src=endeca&product_id=26979)

ALPHIE is a (rather adorable) toy robot designed to teach preschoolers letters, numbers, words, shapes, and more. He comes with 30 double-sided cards that you can insert into his torso to engage him on these assorted subjects, whereupon he talks, quizzes you, and even plays music.

### [My Smart Hands](http://mysmarthands.com/Site/iPhone_MSH_Dictionary.html)

This $4.99 app is a sign language dictionary designed to help you teach signing to your baby. Whether you or your child is hearing impaired or not, this could be a great educational opportunity for one or both of you.

### [Mindflex](http://mindflexgames.com/what_is_mindflex.php)

Not an educational tool per se, this toy nonetheless may spark an interest in neuroscience and even teaches children to manipulate their own mental states. It’s a ball game you play by means of biofeedback, using your brainwaves to levitate a ball through a series of obstacles.

### [Touch Physics](http://www.gamez4touch.com/TouchPhysics/index_html)

In this 50-level game, free to download at the App Store, players attempt to move a purple wheel past obstacles to a yellow star, using a magic crayon (like Harold of children’s-book fame). It models the real laws of physics and can be quite challenging in a way that’s bound to prove especially addictive for kids.

### [Bookworm](http://www.popcap.com/games/bookworm/iphone)

Link letter blocks to form words in this $2.99 iPhone game from PopCap (also available for MAC, PC, and Nintendo DS). Bookworm is a good vocabulary builder for kids and a great diversion for adults.

### [Magic Piano](http://www.smule.com/magicpiano/)

This piano game is a great way to get kids interested in learning to play the real thing. Though the interface is more like Dance Dance Revolution or Guitar Hero than the traditional ebony and ivory, it does allow your fingers to form real chords.

### [Park Math](http://www.duckduckmoosedesign.com/educational-iphone-itouch-apps-for-kids/park-math/)

This jaunty math game won a 2011 Silver Award from the Parents’ Choice Foundation, the 2010 Best Kids’ iPhone/iPod App of the Year Award from iLounge, and a Children’s Technology Review Editor’s Choice Award for Excellence in Design. It features 7 mini-games where, for example, you learn greater than/less than by balancing a seesaw, or learn subtraction as apples fall from a tree.

### [Grover’s Number Special](http://www.ideotoylab.com/sesamestreet/grovers-number-special.html)

Big Bird lives! IDEO Toy Lab has partnered with Sesame Street to produce a line of fun apps featuring original video of everybody’s favorite educational Muppets. In this one, you help Grover, who’s moonlighting as a waiter, to count and add up ingredients to serve an angry customer, since the chef hasn’t shown up for work.

### [SmartGlobe](http://www.worldglobes.com/educational-globes/interactive/thespecialeditionsmartglobev3.cfm)

This interactive globe has content for ages 5+, 8+, and 15+, and has an attached SmartPen so you can point at spots on the globe and hear informative audio files. There are also six games, including multiplayer functionality so you can play along with your child.

### [Stack the States](http://dan-russell-pinson.com/2010/09/03/stack-the-states/)

Can you still name all 50 state capitals? This app by Dan Russell-Pinson is kind of like the Tetris of U.S. geography: you stack up states after correctly answering questions about them, which in turn unlocks three bonus games: Pile Up, Puzzler, and Capital Drop.

# The 25 Most Used Mobile Apps In Education

Added by [Jeff Dunn](http://edudemic.com/author/edudemic/) on 2012-10-16

[**2**](http://edudemic.com/2012/10/most-used-mobile-apps-education/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/mobile-apps.jpg)Apps, smartphones, and tablets are storming into classrooms around the world. But how do you figure out which [apps are being used by teachers, admins, students, and parents](http://edudemic.com/?s=apps)?

It’s not an easy task, to be sure. But you can rest assured there are definitely some apps that are being used a bit more than others. For example, we’ve seen Dropbox and Edmodo used by just about every school district around Cambridge. [There are many others](http://edudemic.com/category/new-tools/) and we offer a special thanks to our content [content partners](http://www.onlineuniversities.com/" \t "_blank) at Online Universities who assembled a list of some of the most used and most popular academic mobile apps being used right now.

Care to add to this list? Share your thoughts down in the comments!

1. [**Dropbox**](https://www.dropbox.com/)**:**  
   Thanks to the magic and wonder of cloud computing, professors on the go can access their files from other devices they’ve connected to their personal networks, meaning they never leave an important digital document at home!
2. [**Documents To Go**](http://www.dataviz.com/products/documentstogo/)**:**  
   Available for nearly all smartphone and PDA platforms, Documents To Go offers up the full suite of Microsoft Office programs, and saving a file on one device makes changes to all connected ones as well!
3. [**Lab Guru**](http://www.labguru.com/ipad)**:**  
   iPad-owning science professors sign up for the popular Lab Guru to draw up experiments and tote them into the field or onto the counter for note taking and sharing.
4. [**Attendance**](http://www.dave256apps.com/attendance/)**:**  
   Educators with iDevices love this app for doing exactly what the name says it does – assist them in keeping track of what students attended what classes when.
5. [**Evernote**](http://evernote.com/)**:**  
   Sort digital files into scrapbooks and make sure all necessary class materials sit in the proper place with one of the mobile world’s most lauded organization applications of all time.
6. [**The Elements: A Visual Exploration**](http://periodictable.com/ipad/)**:**  
   Even non-chemistry buffs absolutely adore The Elements iPad app, which illustrates the periodic table with richly detailed photos and comprehensive information about all the basic components of everyday (and not-so-everyday) matter.
7. [**TED**](http://support.ted.com/customer/portal/articles/213405-how-do-i-get-ted-on-my-mobile-device-)**:**  
   Professors love using the intelligent, open source lectures available through TED to supplement their classroom lessons (on myriad topics, to boot) and even learn a few things they themselves didn’t know before.
8. [**Twitter**](https://twitter.com/download)**:**  
   Whether used for backchanneling or sharing reminders and helpful online materials, Twitter has established itself as an essential tool for the 21st century classroom.
9. [**Science 360**](http://science360.gov/files/)**:**  
   Android and iDevice owners listen to audio and watch video on all the sciences here, making it an absolutely perfect resource for sharing with students and boosting personal knowledge.
10. [**Quick Graph**](http://kzlabs.me/quick-graph/)**:**  
    For math professors, Quick Graph provides mobile computing’s most detailed visuals when it comes to calculating equations in two and three dimensions.
11. [**Keynote**](http://www.apple.com/apps/keynote/)**:**  
    Keynote allows users to whip up multimedia presentations for lectures, conferences, and more on their iDevices, because sometimes PowerPoint just won’t do at all, dahling.
12. [**TeacherKit**](http://teacherkit.net/)**:**This app serves as an educator’s personal assistant in many ways, keeping track of nearly everything they need to stay on task, record grades and attendance, and plenty more – but only for iDevice owners, unfortunately.
13. [**Teacher Aide Pro**](https://sites.google.com/site/teacheraidepro/)**:**  
    Android-enabled academics who can’t use TeacherKit turn to the award-winning Teacher Aid Pro to accomplish the exact same goals mentioned above.
14. [**Google Apps**](http://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/benefits.html)**:**  
    More of a spacious suite of multiple apps rather than just one, these offerings by Internet juggernaut Google enhance any classroom with access to an Android, iPad, iPhone, Blackberry, Windows Phone, or other mobile gadget.
15. [**Blackboard Mobile Learn**](http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/mobile/overview.aspx)**:**  
    Because so many colleges and universities provide access to Blackboard – especially for its online classes – it makes perfect sense that allowing easy mobile access appeals to tech-savvy educators.
16. [**eClicker Polling System**](http://www.eclicker.com/)**:**  
    Make great PowerPoint and Keynote presentations even more effective with an app transforming iDevices into centers for making drawings, taking polls, scrolling through slides, and other fabulous features.
17. [**Wikipedia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Mobile_device)**:**  
    Despite its open editing structure, Wikipedia generally [hosts the most accurate available information](http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2005Natur.438..900G), and plenty of professors head there for research … even if it’s a clandestine peek!
18. [**CourseSmart**](http://www.coursesmart.com/go/mobile)**:**  
    CourseSmart provides smartphone and tablet fans a painless way to read thousands of textbooks without potentially breaking their backs and shoulders with heavy bags!
19. [**Bento**](http://www.filemaker.com/products/bento/for-iphone/)**:**  
    Developed for iDevices, this app streamlines the project-planning and creating process, as well as serving as a pretty nifty little general organizer.
20. [**Edmodo**](http://www.edmodo.com/mobile/)**:**If social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter don’t provide enough privacy for discussions and sharing classroom materials, Edmodo might fill that gap because it specifically targets teachers hoping to work closely with their students online.
21. [**QuickOffice Pro**](http://www.quickoffice.com/)**:**  
    For $14.99, iDevice and Android owners enjoy access to the full Microsoft Office suite, where they can create, edit, and share documents while out and about.
22. [**Box**](https://www.box.com/services)**:**  
    Another dazzlingly popular cloud application allowing for file retrieval from any computer hosting it, with ramped-up privacy for anyone concerned about losing important documents to 1337 ]-[4><><0|2z.
23. [**iAnnotate**](http://www.branchfire.com/iannotate/)**:**  
    Making notes, bookmarking, and highlighting is inevitable in academia – or, at least, in academia where work actually gets done – and this offering renders the process easy when it comes to PDF files.
24. [**Mendeley**](http://www.mendeley.com/)**:**  
    Professors inundated with research (and in possession of an iPhone) download Mendeley to keep their research compiled and organized, as well as network with other professionals and educators.
25. [**Popplet**](http://popplet.com/)**:**  
    Mind map out those presentations and papers with Popplet, a quick and easy tool for visualizing how everything could fit together for the most effective and memorable lectures imaginable.

**Honorable Mention:**[**The Edudemic Magazine iPad app!**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/edudemic-magazine/id495202697?mt=8)  
It’s been adopted by entire school districts, is free to download and the issues cost less than a cup of coffee. We work hard to pack each issue with news rundowns, in-depth research, editorials, analysis, and recommended apps like this list. We don’t promote it very often so pardon this interruption.

# How Students Can Create Their Own e-Textbooks On An iPad

Added by [Beth Holland](http://edudemic.com/author/bholland/) on 2012-09-24

[**6**](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/students-create-e-textbooks-ipad/)

Two of the most powerful apps on the iPad may be completely invisible: iBooks and the Camera Roll. However, when used together, they have the potential to create powerful learning experiences and dynamic projects.

## Dynamic Math Portfolios

[](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/students-create-e-textbooks-ipad/geometry/)In July, Greg Kulowiec and I taught a workshop on [Creating Digital Course Content](http://edtechteacher.org/index.php/professional-development/summer-workshops/103-digital-content). One of our participants, a high school math teacher, initially set out to create his own textbook. However, as we started exploring [BookCreator](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/book-creator-for-ipad/id442378070?mt=8" \t "_blank), he realized that the real value may be in the students creating their own collection of books over the course of the year.

For each chapter covered in the text book, his students could create an eBook. This publication would then be broken down into units much like the paper version. Because BookCreator pulls from the Camera roll, any images or video that can be exported to that location could then be incorporated into the final product. Consider adding labels to photos of the text with [Skitch](http://skitch.com/" \t "_blank), screen captures of graphs created with [GeometryPad](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/geometry-pad/id517461177?mt=8" \t "_blank), or videos exported out of [ExplainEverything](http://www.explaineverything.com/" \t "_blank). Combine this with text boxes that include relevant theorems or vocabulary, and students could essentially create documentation of their own problem solving and learning. Completed books can then be sent to iBooks and placed in a specific collection.

We then discussed workflow and how the students could “turn in” their books. However, we decided that rather than a technical solution such as sending to DropBox or Google Drive, the value would be in conferencing with the student before each chapter assessment to review their work. At the end of the year, a final conference would provide a holistic view of their work over entire course. By creating a math portfolio in iBooks, the students also gain a customized exam review system in addition to the documentation of their learning process.

## Science Lab Book Collection

[](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/students-create-e-textbooks-ipad/scribble/)In August, I worked with a middle school science teacher at Ascension Episcopal School in Lafayette, LA. She explained that during the course of the year, despite the amount of time that she spent setting up hands-on labs, her students often give her blank looks when she asked,“remember that lab???” As we worked with[ScribblePress](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/scribble-press/id487300076?mt=8), adding photos from the Camera roll and then sending completed projects to iBooks, she had an epiphany.

This year, since her students would be 1:1 with iPads, she would have them create their own collection of lab books. Each one would include typed and illustrated definitions of key vocabulary terms, photos of the lab procedures and completed lab reports, as well as photo documentation to accompany observations. With the drawing tools native to ScribblePress, students could add annotations to all of these images or even create their own diagrams to explain concepts. Completed eBooks can then be shelved in iBooks as well as posted to a class ScribblePress account on the web.

Moving forward, when the teacher asks her class if they remember a particular lab, they will be able to look in their science collection in iBooks.

## Books of Books

[](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/students-create-e-textbooks-ipad/notability/)Towards the end of one of our three-day [iPad workshops](http://edtechteacher.org/index.php/professional-development/summer-workshops/107-ipad-classroom" \t "_blank), I had an interesting conversation with a wonderful teacher from Sandy Springs Friends School in Maryland. It started out with a seemingly innocuous question: which app should I use for my students to fill in their literature review sheets?

At first glance, that seems pretty straight forward – either save your Word docs as a PDF and then have the students annotate them with something like[Notability](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/notability-take-notes-annotate/id360593530?mt=8), or let them type directly into the Word doc with [CloudOn](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cloudon/id474025452?mt=8" \t "_blank) or [Pages](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pages/id361309726?mt=8). However, instead, I asked,“Why have them use the iPad for something that works on paper?” After a long conversation, the real learning goal that this teacher wanted to achieve was for her students to take ownership in the process of learning about the literature and to really connect with it. The iPad really could be the tool of choice for this larger goal in creating books of books.

To start the process, the teacher can still use her literature sheets. Students could then choose whether they would like to hand-write their responses or type them from the iPads. However, rather than being the end of the project, the sheets become the scaffolding for the larger endeavor. For each literature book read, the students would create an eBook using BookCreator. Students could incorporate photos, diagrams, and screencasts as well as iMovie trailers and their own narrations to demonstrate their understanding of vocabulary, character, setting, and theme. Upon completion and final review, the final eBook can once again get shelved in iBooks.

## Seeing the Invisible

Imagine the end of the school year for students whose teachers fully leveraged the potential of iBooks and the Camera. Perusing through their iBooks collections, they could have documentation of their learning for each of their courses as well as their research materials and reading assignments.  As these students prepare for final exams, they could share eBooks for virtual study groups using [Subtext](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/subtext/id457556753?mt=8). Imagine a review conversation occurring directly inside of student-generated content….

# 50 Useful Apps For Students With Reading Disabilities

Added by [Katie Lepi](http://edudemic.com/author/katie/) on 2012-09-19

[**23**](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/the-50-best-ipad-apps-for-students-with-reading-disabilities/)

Whether you’re the parent of a child with a reading disability or an educator that works with learning disabled students on a daily basis, you’re undoubtedly always looking for new tools to help these bright young kids meet their potential and work through their disability.

While there are numerous technologies out there that can help, perhaps one of the richest is the iPad, which offers dozens of applications designed to meet the needs of learning disabled kids and beginning readers alike.

Here, we highlight just a few of the amazing apps out there that can help students with a reading disability improve their skills not only in reading, writing, and spelling, but also get a boost in confidence and learn to see school as a fun, engaging activity, not a struggle.

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/50-Best-iPad-Apps-for-Reading-Disabilities.png)

### Helpful Tools

These tools are useful for both educators and students with reading disabilities alike, aiding in everything from looking up a correct spelling to reading text out loud.

1. [**Speak It!**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speak-it%21-text-to-speech/id308629295?mt=8)**:**Speak It! is a great text-to-speech solution that can allow students with reading disabilities to get a little help with reading when they need it.
2. [**Talk to Me**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talk-to-me-text-to-speech/id317234771?mt=8)**:**Talk to Me is another text to speech application. It can be used to read words out loud as they are typed, which can help students to better correlate the letters and words with how they’re pronounced.
3. [**Dragon Dictation**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764?mt=8)**:**Dragon Dictation works in reverse of the two apps we just listed. Instead of reading text out loud, the application writes down spoken text. For students who struggle with writing, it can be a great way for them to jot down ideas or get help learning.
4. [**Dyslexic Like Me**](http://www.dyslexiclikeme.org/about-dyslexia/dyslexia-app)**:**Explaining dyslexia to a child can be hard, but this application can make it a little easier. It’s an interactive children’s book that helps students to understand dyslexia and become empowered to overcome their learning disability.
5. [**Merriam-Webster Dictionary**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/merriam-webster-dictionary/id399452287?mt=8)**:**If spelling is a problem, it’s always a good idea to have a really great dictionary on hand. This app from Merriam-Webster can provide that.
6. [**Dictionary.com**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dictionary.com-dictionary/id308750436?mt=8)**:**If Dictionary.com is your go-to place for definitions and spelling help, this app can be a great way to bring that functionality to your iPad or iPhone.
7. [**Prizmo**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/prizmo-document-scanning-ocr/id366791896?mt=8)**:**With Prizmo, users can scan in any kind of text document and have the program read it out loud, which can be a big help to those who struggle with reading.
8. [**Flashcards for iPad**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/flashcards-for-ipad/id378421781?mt=8)**:**This app makes it easy to study words, spelling, and other things that young and LD readers might need help with.
9. [**Soundnote**](http://soundnote.com/)**:**Using Soundnote, you can record drawings, notes, and audio all at once, balancing reading-based skills with those that are auditory and visual.

### Fundamentals

These apps help teach the fundamentals of reading, writing, and spelling to any young learner, but can be especially helpful for those who are struggling.

1. [**Alphabet Zoo**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/alphabet-zoo/id416075232?mt=8)**:**Alphabet Zoo is a great tool for helping young readers to recognize letter sounds. Using text and pictures of animals, kids can build their reading skills while having fun.
2. [**Find the Letters HD**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/find-the-letters-hd/id488548364?mt=8)**:**A favorite of special education teachers and psychologists, this app asks learners to find letters and numbers in a coloring grid. It helps build skills in spatial positioning, depth orientation, form discrimination, and concentration and attention.
3. [**First Words Sampler**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/first-words-sampler/id312571156?mt=8)**:**Preschoolers with a reading disability can get a head start on improving their skills with this app that teaches them about letters and words using fun graphics and sounds.
4. [**Montessori Crosswords**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/montessori-crosswords-spelling/id384334005?mt=8)**:**Embrace the Montessori method by using this app to help youngsters improve their spelling and reading skills through engaging phonics-based exercises.
5. [**Read & Write**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/read-write-letters-sounds/id366248369?mt=8)**:**Students can practice reading and writing letters using this application. Users can trace letters, learn letter sounds, and get illustrations to go along with each part of the alphabet.
6. [**Sound Literacy**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/soundliteracy/id409347075?mt=8)**:**With a portion of the proceeds from this app going to the Dyslexia Association, there’s no reason not to sign on. Even better, the app is incredibly useful, employing the Orton-Gillingham method to help students recognize the spellings of English phonemes.
7. [**weesay ABC**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/weesay-abc/id323870679?mt=8)**:**Using pictures, words, and sounds, this application makes it easy for young students to practice and learn their ABCs.
8. [**abc PocketPhonics**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/abc-pocketphonics-letter-sounds/id299342927?mt=8)**:**This app is a great tool for teaching reading disabled students the fundamentals of letter sounds and shapes.
9. [**The Writing Machine**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-writing-machine/id438108325?mt=8)**:**By correlating pictures and words, reading text, sounding out letters, this tool helps students develop early literacy abilities with greater ease.
10. [**WordSort**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-sort-by-grammaropolis/id416441549?mt=8)**:**One of the top educational apps out there, this game helps kids to learn how to identify parts of speech, like nouns, adverbs, and verbs, as well as emphasizing grammar skills.
11. [**ABC Phonics Word Families**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/abc-phonics-word-families/id371052413?mt=8)**:** Using analogy phonics (or word families) this application teaches young learners to see and hear the patterns of commonality in a set of words. With flashcards, spelling words, scrambled words, and games, this app is a must-have for helping students.

### Reading

These excellent iPad apps can be a big help to reading disabled students who need a little extra support when trying to read.

1. [**Blio**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/blio/id409370678?mt=8)**:**Blio offers all the same features of any basic e-reader, and also a few things that make it unique. Through synchronized highlighting and a serial presentation view, the app helps those with reading disabilities make sense of the text, something many other similar apps don’t offer.
2. [**Read 2 Me**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/read-2-me/id313752154?mt=8)**:**For those who have difficulty reading, apps like Read 2 Me can be a godsend. The app comes complete with an entire library of texts, all of which can be read out loud.
3. [**Read2Go**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/read2go/id425585903?mt=8)**:**If you use DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) books in your classroom, Read2Go is one of the best and most accessible ways to read those books on iOS.
4. [**AppWriter**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/appwriter-us/id490076103?mt=8)**:**Designed with reading and writing disabilities in mind, this text editor for iPad integrates numerous accessibility features into standard text editing functionality.
5. [**Audiobooks**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/audiobooks/id311507490?mt=8)**:**Sometimes students with reading disabilities might just want a break from reading books the old fashioned way. That’s why this amazing collection of free audiobooks can come in handy, offering access to classics like Romeo and Julietand Treasure Island.
6. [**Bob’s Books**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bob-books-1-reading-magic/id403753501?mt=8)**:**Bob’s Books uses phonics-based interactive games to help kids learn how to read. Activities will help young learners to sound out words, spell, and make connections between letters and sounds.
7. [**iStoryTime**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/istorytime-kids-book-my-first/id333245116?mt=8)**:**There are numerous titles to choose from in the iStoryTime series, all of which allow kids to have the book read to them or to get help reading it themselves.
8. [**MeeGenius! Kids’ Books**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/meegenius%21-kids-books/id364734296?mt=8)**:**MeeGenius is another series that’s perfect for practicing reading skills. Those with trouble reading can use illustrations and helpful word highlighting to get help, or just have the book read to them until they’re confident enough to do it on their own.
9. [**Reading Trainer**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/reading-trainer/id406388984?mt=8)**:**While this app is designed to help average readers boost their reading speed and ability, it can be useful to those who struggle as well, as many of the skills taught can help just about anyone become a more confident reader.
10. [**See Read Say**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/see-read-say/id322313775?mt=8)**:**This application will help to ensure that young learners are familiar with all of the Dolch sight words (the most common words), using games, activities, and tons of practice.
11. [**Stories2Learn**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stories2learn/id348576875?mt=8)**:**Why use existing stories to help troubled readers when you can build your own? This application lets you develop your own text and audio stories, including messages, topics, and other things that can help keep kids interested.
12. [**eReading series**](http://www.padgadget.com/2011/04/27/great-new-reading-apps-for-learning-disabled)**:**The eReading series from Brain Integration LLC, helps young readers at all levels of proficiency learn about topics like Greek Mythology and Gulliver’s Travels. Users can have the book read to them, or practice reading without the help, too.

### Writing

For those with reading disabilities, sometimes writing can also be a trying task. Here are some apps that can help teach, assist, and make writing more fun.

1. [**iWrite Words**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iwritewords-handwriting-game/id307025309?mt=8)**:**Named by The Washington Post as one of the best apps for special needs kids, this game-based program helps youngsters learn to write their letters through a fun and engaging setup that uses illustrations and animations to keep things interesting.
2. [**AlphaWriter**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/alpha-writer-by-montessorium/id394038232?mt=8)**:**Using Montessori-based learning methods, this application helps kids to learn how to read, write, and spell phonetically. It also teaches lessons on consonants and vowels, letter sounds, writing stories, and much more.
3. [**Sentence Builder**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sentence-builder/id344378741?mt=8)**:**Through this application, elementary school children will learn how to build grammatically correct sentences, with a special focus on using connector words.
4. [**Story Builder**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storybuilder-for-ipad/id377631532?mt=8)**:**After kids are done learning how to build sentences, they can move onto this app which combines those sentences into one coherent story, complete with illustrations.
5. [**Writing Prompts**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/writing-prompts/id417683378?mt=8)**:**Having trouble thinking of things for students to write about? This app removes that roadblock and offers up numerous ideas for short writing assignments.
6. [**Idea Sketch**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idea-sketch/id367246522?mt=8)**:**This mind-mapping app can help learning disabled students make sense of their ideas and organize them in ways that they can easily translate into written work.
7. [**Storyrobe**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storyrobe/id337670615?mt=8)**:**Teachers and students can build and share their own unique stories through this application. Integration with YouTube and email makes it easy to share and revise, too.

### Spelling

These applications can be excellent tools for improving spelling skills.

1. [**American Wordspeller**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/american-wordspeller/id397617771?mt=8)**:**Looking up a word in a dictionary isn’t that simple if you have no idea how to spell it. This app removes that problem and employs a method that lets you much more easily pinpoint how to spell just about any word.
2. [**Word Magic**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-magic/id293630633?mt=8)**:**Created by the parents of a five-year-old, this app for young learners help kids learn words and how to spell them correctly. It uses lots of positive reinforcement, rewards, and fun pictures to keep things interesting to learners.
3. [**Typ-O**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/typ-o-hd-writing-is-for-everybody%21/id372971659?mt=8)**:**Poor spellers can rejoice over this great application that help you spell words correctly in any typing-related program on your iPhone or iPad.
4. [**A1 Spelling App**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/a1-spelling-app-free/id438784501?mt=8)**:**This application is a great way to help poor spellers begin to learn the correct spelling of common words, increasing difficulty as kids master words.
5. [**iSpell Word**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ispell-word-for-ipad/id391285614?mt=8)**:**iSpell Word is designed to help kids learn the spellings of simple English words. It uses games to teach, with each level of the game employing more difficult words so kids are always challenged.
6. [**Jumbline**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/jumbline-lite/id315105201?mt=8)**:**If you’re looking to make reading, writing, and spelling into a game, this app can help. It’s full of word games that ask players to use speed, smarts, pattern recognition, and spelling skills to win.
7. [**Spelling Bee Challenge**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spelling-bee-challenge/id435201514?mt=8)**:**Kids can have fun taking part in a mock spelling bee using this application that boosts both spelling and vocab skills.
8. [**Word Fall**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-fall/id334473864?mt=8)**:**In this educational game, words fall from the sky and players must collect letters to form basic words.
9. [**WordLadder**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-ladder/id431089283?mt=8)**:**This highly challenging word game will get older readers thinking about how words are spelled and how they can be connected and changed to form new words.
10. [**ACT Spell**](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/act-spell/id379976080?mt=8)**:**Developed especially for learners with disabilities and special needs, this tool helps develop motor control, word recognition, spelling, and reading skills.
11. [**Word Wizard**](http://lescapadou.com/LEscapadou_-_Fun_and_Educational_applications_for_iPad_and_IPhone/Word_Wizard_-_Talking_Educational_App_for_iPhone_and_iPad.html)**:**Lauded by The New York Times, this word-focused app lets kids hear the sounds of letters and words through a movable alphabet while also engaging them in spelling practice and games.

# 5 Must-Have iOS Apps For Writers

Added by [Kimberly Fredrick](http://edudemic.com/author/kimberlyxs/) on 2012-09-13

[**2**](http://edudemic.com/2012/09/5-must-have-ios-apps-for-writers/)

[](http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/7-iOS-Apps-to-Help-You-Stay-Fit-and-Healthy.jpg)For students, essays are a necessary evil of the experience of getting an education.

For teachers, helping students write their essays can be time consuming, and once the students go home, they may lack the support they have in your classroom.

It doesn’t mean they have to go it alone, though, when there is electronic help available. Check out these top 5 Apple applications for essay writing to make getting organizing and presenting your thoughts in a coherent manner a much easier process.

## 1.[Essay Writing Workstation](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/essay-writing-workstation/id427244910?mt=8)

The Essay Writing Workstation allows students to work on two essays at once in an easy-to-follow e-book format. Each essay has its own outline page to help you stay on track as you’re composing.

If you need to review instructions for revising your essay, simply go to the QuickView Instructions part of the app. These guidelines are available without leaving your essay.

All of your text is automatically saved, even if you get a call or exit the app. You don’t need to worry about your work disappearing. The last page in the eBook is automatically saved, allowing you to easily return to where you left off when you return to the app.

A great feature of this app is that it allows you to go online and search the Web without having to leave the app first. Send a message to your study group or e-mail your completed masterpiece to your instructor all from within the app.

## 2.[Essay Writing Guide](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/essay-writing-guide/id474987099?mt=8)

If you are the type of person who likes to see information presented in a visual format, the Essay Writing Guide app will be a great choice for you. Check out three wheels (Content, Style, and Organization) to see how these elements of style come together in your writing. Clicking on an element within the wheel will reveal a definition of the term, as well as tips and examples for using it.

This app also allows you to select a font size, color and style. You can edit and format your work as well.

## 3. [Essay Writing Wizard](http://www.essaywritingwizard.com/)

The Essay Writing Wizard has a number of different versions, including ones made specifically for community college and university students. Other editions are designed for users in specific fields.

Each one provides detailed descriptions of the types of essays which are used in a particular field, and you will find tips on how to write each one effectively. Essay Writing Wizard also offers general writing tips, revision guidelines, and suggestions on the best way to organize your essay.

Write your essay with your iPhone or iPod and use the app to write down notes and ideas. You can also use it to keep track of your sources. For your convenience, you can e-mail a copy of your work to your instructor for feedback directly from the app.

## 4.[PaperHelper](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/paperhelper-easiest-essay/id417344306?mt=8)

PaperHelper is an app which allows you to surf the Internet and transfer it to your document quickly and easily by splitting your iPad screen in half. You can change your font or text size as well. Use the app to gather research before sitting down to write the final paper or you can prepare the final version using the app if you wish.

A handy sources button allows you to keep track of this information in one place. Spell check your work and then e-mail your paper to a classmate or your teacher. This app is also a great choice for bloggers who need to refer to research material and type at the same time.

## 5. [Essay Czar](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/essay-czar/id402806365?mt=8)

If you are feeling lost and want an app which can provide some instruction about essay writing, check out Essay Czar. It is a handbook which high school and college students can access for specific help on how to effectively write over 40 different styles of essays, including the one for the SAT test. Download the app and you get an ebook format which is written in an easy-to-follow tone. The instructions are very concise and examples of each type of essay are included so you will be able to understand the subtle differences between each style.

This app is appropriate for ESL students. It can be used with your iPod and iPad. Essay Czar would also be helpful for students who are being home schooled.

These top 5 Apple applications for essay writing will help you get and stay on track the next time you are given a paper to write. They can help you understand the approach your instructor wants you to take in a particular type of essay style, organize your information, and give you a way to surf the Internet for information and jot down notes on the go. While they may not make the assignment entirely easy, they can make the assignment less time-consuming and maybe even a bit more pleasant for you.

This post was written and provided by Kimberly Fredrick who is an inspirational writer and loves teaching students by providing tips at her website[*writemyessay4me*](http://www.writemyessay4me.com/). You may contact her with questions or ideas atkimberly.inspire@gmail.com.

Breathe life into your reading and writing instruction! iPads can be a vital tool in supporting English Language Arts curriculum in the classroom. We searched for the best iPad applications available for this subject and aligned them to Common Core English Language Arts standards. With these highly engaging apps, your students can use their iPads to create their own storybooks, comic strips, voice-over tutorials, and more. We hope they spark a new found passion for reading and writing in your classroom!

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| Grade Level | Title | Price | CCSS | Description |
| K-2 | [StoryKit](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storykit/id329374595?mt=8) | Free | W.K-2.6 | This app allows students to create electronic storybooks that include their own text and illustrations/photographs. |
| K-2 | [I Can Write 2](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/i-can-write-2/id500152476?mt=8) | Free | L.K-2.1 | This app engages students in creating their own pictures and sentences in a fun, interactive environment. |
| 3-5 | [Strip Designer](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/strip-designer/id314780738?mt=8) | $2.99 | W.3-5.6 | Students can tell a story or sequence of events by creating their own comic strips using photos taken with the iPad. |
| 6-8 | [iTooch Junior High School](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itooch-junior-high-school/id521676063?mt=8) | Free (trial) | RI.6-8.10  RL.6-8.10 | This app is one of the largest collections of educational activities based on Common Core Standards |
| 6-8 | [Brain Dip](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brain-dip-magazine-smart-way/id513043465?mt=8) | First issue free | See Common Core section in app for alignment. | This app is a magazine-style textbook that includes a multi-disciplinary, multi-level online study guide that correlates to the Common Core State Standards. The free sample issue guides students through an analysis of President Obama’s 2009 inaugural address. |
| HS | [Show Me](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/showme-interactive-whiteboard/id445066279?mt=8) | Free | W.9-12.2  W.9-12.6 | This app allows students to record voice-over tutorials and share them with an online community. |
| 5-12 | [NoteBook+ Free](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/notebook+-free/id441424813?mt=8) | Free | W.5-12.8 | Students can write freely using their fingertips to take notes on the iPad. |
| HS | [Free Books](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free-books-23-469-classics/id364612911?mt=8) | Free | RL.9-12.10 | Download classics to read on the iPad. |
| K-8 | [StoryLines for Schools](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storylines-for-schools/id492805472?mt=8) | Free | L.K-8.4 | With this app, students can enhance their vocabulary and language concepts while collaborating with peers. |
| 1-5 | [iTooch Elementary](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itooch-elementary/id484570190?mt=8) | Free (trial) | RI.1-5.10  RL.1-5.10 | This app is one of the largest collections of educational activities based on Common Core Standards |

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