From *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms*
Will Richardson
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The term "Read-Write Web" encompasses those technologies that allow easy dissemination of content and feedback opportunities through the internet. These include:

**Weblogs (blogs)**
Can be simply a posting board or interactive with comments

Ideas for instructional use:
1. Class Portal: instructor uses blog as central site for class, with instructions and updates
2. Discussion Board: instructor uses blog for discussion, allowing student comments
3. E-portfolio each student posts content to own blog, with or without full class access and commenting
4. Collaborative Space: for working on class project

Richardson notes that the *connective experience* of blogs is not the same as *posting*. Posting assignments, keeping a journal, posting links, etc. is not blogging. Posting links with analysis, reflective or metacognitive writing, creating synthesis or a deeper understanding in blogging.

Blogs can also include:
-- RSS feeds to bring students the latest updates from blogs and sites related to the discipline

Resources:
Blogger (http://www.blogger.com)
Wordpress (http://www.wordpress.com)

**Wikis**
Collaborative spaces were all parties can edit/rewrite any page on the site over the web.

Ideas for instructional use:
1. Draft or Staging Area: collaborative place to work out ideas for class presentations, papers, or projects before their final form
2. Project: collaborative building of the wiki as a class project
3. Publication opportunity: wikis can be published and shared with other colleges.

Resources:
Wikipedia (http://www.wikipedia.com): the world's biggest wiki
RSS
A way to aggregate content from different web sources through "feeds", updates of content made available by the publishing website. To create a list of feeds, you need an aggregator, which is either a freestanding program running on the hard drive, or a service on the internet.

Examples: My Yahoo! (http://www.yahoo.com/r/i1) requires free Yahoo account, but the My Yahoo page is an aggregator to which you can add feeds. Firefox browser has one built in.

Instructors can create their own list of feeds for their own use, for example feeds related to their disciplines or pedagogy. The power of RSS comes in sharing these feeds with students, or in students feeding their own work to the instructor.

Ideas for instructional use
1. For the instructor: create a page of RSS feeds that your students can access and use as a foundation for homework, discussion, assignments
2. Student blogs: students can use their own blogs to create lists of RSS feeds pertinent to their assignment.
3. Viewing student work: instructors can subscribe to feeds from their students' blogs to get a one screen view of what the class is doing.