

WEB SCAN



Blended Learning Apps That Can Make You Flip!

Web Scan Editor's Note: We are delighted to have a guest Web Scan column writer for this issue, Rebecca Metzger. Rebecca holds Master Degrees in Special Education and Counseling, and currently is the West Virginia Adult Basic Education Coordinator for Distance Education and Professional Development at RESA 3 in Dunbar, West Virginia.
– Dr. David J. Rosen, Web Scan Editor

Blended learning has become more popular in adult education because hybrid classes with online and classroom-based instruction can increase student engagement and learning. Many apps are available for teachers to create screencasts (digital recordings of screens with voice-over narration to demonstrate skills and concepts) and to share those screencasts on learning management systems. Here are five free or inexpensive apps to create a flipped classroom; where students can access instruction online at home, and then class time is reserved for teacher help, activities, and projects.

1. Educreations

www.educreations.com

Educreations permits teachers to use an iPad to record lessons and tutorials on a whiteboard at no cost. Text or images can be imported from Dropbox or Google Drive and annotated. Videos can be shared through email, Twitter, or Facebook. In addition to creating lessons for students, users can access lessons created by others in math, science, social studies, English, world languages, and the arts. Educreations can be used on a personal computer or Apple devices.

*Reviewed by
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RESA 3



2. Edmodo

www.edmodo.com

A screenshot of the Edmodo website. The top navigation bar includes links for Note, Alert, Assignment, Out, In, and Schedule. The main content area shows a group post titled 'Me to COAEE Example' with a note about sharing documents, links, and other resources. Below this is a poll titled 'What subjects could you teach with this platform?' with options: math (1 vote), writing (0 votes), reading (0 votes), and science (0 votes). The sidebar on the left lists 'COAEE Example Group' with a group code and join URL, and sections for Small Groups, Other Groups, Snapshots, Digital Storytelling, and e-portfolios.

Edmodo is a free social learning platform where teachers can create groups and subgroups to assign content, share schedules, create quizzes, and conduct polls in just a few steps. Teachers can initiate student discussions and collaborations with posts. Edmodo Snapshots allow teachers to create math or English Language Arts quizzes from a test bank of over 1,000 questions aligned to Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Snapshots provide quick assessment data to determine student progress, and links to free online resources to reteach missed standards. Teachers can acknowledge achievement with custom badges. Edmodo is accessible with a personal computer and Apple, Android, and Windows devices.

3. Schoology

www.schoology.com

Schoology (pronounced skoo-luh-gee) is a free learning management system that permits teachers to easily create online courses and share content between instructors. Materials can be imported from DropBox, Evernote, Khan Academy, and Google Drive. Content, quizzes, and rubrics can be aligned to CCSS. Discussions promote collaboration, and digital online badges reward academic progress and student behavior. Schoology is available on Android, Apple iPad/iPhone, Kindle Fire, and personal computers.

A screenshot of the Schoology website. The top navigation bar includes Home, Courses, Groups, and Resources. The main content area shows a course titled 'Kanawha County TABE Math Preparation: Section 1' with a sub-section 'Charleston SPOKES'. The course page includes a sidebar with 'Materials' (Updates, Gradebook, Badges, Attendance, Members, Analytics), 'Course Options' (Edit Picture), and 'Access Code'. The main content area displays four course modules: 'Start Here' (description: 'This is the first folder you need to access. Complete the readings and activities in the order they appear in the list.'), 'Decimals...' (Weekly Goal: 'The student will be able to calculate decimals in all basic operations, as well as recognize the differences among decimals.'), 'Fractions...' (Weekly Goal: 'Student will be able to recognize fraction problems from word problems/ real life scenarios and calculate correctly using the required operation.'), and 'Percentages...' (Weekly Goal: 'Student will be able to recognize percent problems from word problems/ real life scenarios and calculate correctly using the required operation. Additionally, students will demonstrate understanding of the relationship between decimals, fractions, and percents.').

4. Explain Everything

www.morriscooke.com



Explain Everything provides a white screen where lessons can be created. Active web browser windows and multiple file types can be imported into screencasts. Dropbox, Evernote, and Google Drive are a few of the many cloud storage choices for exporting and sharing videos. Project files can be compressed on a Mac with the Explain Everything Compressor, and the Explain Everything Player allows projects to be played on a Mac. The app is \$2.99 for Apple, Android, and Windows devices.

5. Show Me

www.showme.com

ShowMe permits users to create tutorials with a recordable white screen on their iPads, where files can be uploaded from the photo library, Google Drive, or Dropbox. The user annotates the images with voice and pen features. Videos created by others can be accessed via the app or on a personal computer. ShowMe is a free app on Apple devices.

Lessons from the ShowMe Community

Our community has created thousands of amazing lessons. Choose a topic to get started!



Math

- Arithmetic
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Calculus



Science

- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology



Language

- Chinese
- Latin
- Spanish
- Japanese
- ESL