

GATE SYMPOSIUM: INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY

ONLINE SURVEYS

Although paper surveys are just as effective as electronic ones, the beauty of the online survey is that it increases accessibility and makes the data analysis much easier. There are numerous resources available for students to use for free. However, many of the free versions have a limited number of respondents and/or questions. Some of these online survey tools include **Survey Monkey, Typeform, Zoho Survey, Survey Gizmo, and Survey Planet**. However, speaking from experience, the best online survey tool for students is **Google Forms**. Do not let any of your students pay for any online survey services. Students must be in charge with coming up with a plan on how to administer their surveys. If students are going to be asking their schoolmates to complete surveys, they can post a tiny url or a link on a class website, blog, or on an email sent out to students. An effective way to administer surveys is to post all the survey links on one webpage and require students from various periods, classes, and grade levels to complete at least 3 surveys for homework.

STUDENT BLOGS or WEBSITES

Students should be encouraged to blog about their experiences. By reflecting on their thought process, students will be actively engaging in the metacognitive aspect of research. The blog or website should be shared and updated by all the members of one group, and can even act as a place to save and share work among group members. Students can also post pictures, links to the resources they used, and other materials on their websites. Some excellent websites that students can use include **Weebly, Edublogs, or Google Sites**.

GOOGLE DRIVE

Google drive facilitates collaboration and sharing among students in one group. A shared document of resources in one shared file allows for students to access the information they find and create without having to email, send, or save. Better yet, the mentor should also be included in the shared access, so that the status of students' research can be checked and monitored. Google drive has been integral to the GATE Symposium process and is a must-have tool for students and teachers.

ONLINE RESEARCH

Students will use websites and online databases for most of their research. **WolframAlpha** is an awesome site that provides students with computational data about their topics, and **Google Scholar** is an excellent tool that provides students with peer-reviewed scholarly articles. Students should be encouraged to seek out sources on university or .edu sites as opposed to .com sites. Students should be equipped with a solid understanding of credible sourcing before starting on this project (credibility, accuracy, reasonableness, and support). <http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/allwrite3/seyler/ssite/seyler/se03/cars.mhtml>

QR CODES

Students should be encouraged to allow Symposium visitors to easily access and archive their blogs, websites, or sources on their mobile devices. This can be done through the use of QR codes pasted on the trifold posters.

PODCASTS or VIDEOS

Some students may record their interviews (with permission) on an audio or video file, or students may wish to create a podcast or an original video as a part of their presentation. Allow students to mix media with their traditional trifold posters to create a more engaging and unique experience for their visitors. These additional elements can be accessed via QR codes on the trifold posters.

