



Introduction to WELES

The Web-Enhancement Reflection Tool as represented by the diagram on the previous page, is designed to help you strategize on how to use the web to enhance your classroom practices. The WELES model shows how the components six current methods of teaching and technology-based resources can be merged into four Web-Enhanced Learning Environment Strategies (WELES).

Methods of Teaching – the “how”

The top portion of the WELES tool lists the most common methods of teaching that educators currently use in their classrooms. These methods include **Present, Guide/Inquiry, Active Learning, Collaborative** and **Problem-based Learning, and Role-Play**. Each method draws from the pedagogical foundations of Expository and Inquisitory presentation, Generative learning, Collaborative learning, Problem-based learning, and Anchored instruction.

Web Resources – the “what”

The lower portion of the reflection tool outlines two major web resources--information links through **sites** and human resource (other people) links through **networks**.

The sites and networks are both composed of several elements appropriate for enhancing lesson activities. **Site Elements** are the raw material from which lessons can be created. These web resources can be used to present information in a lesson. **Network Elements** are those capabilities of the web that facilitate communication. In other words, these are the types of resources that connect people electronically to enable shared interactions.

Most sites are a combination of site and network elements. These **Organized Sites** are resources developed with a specific purpose in mind, such as to provide entertainment, present current events, share stories, provide instruction, or encourage hands-on activities. These sites connect students to both information and other people.

Web-Enhanced Learning Environment Strategies (WELES)

The center of the WELES tool outlines strategies that combine "how" teachers teach and "what" resources teachers use. The central Web-Enhanced Learning Environment Strategies help educators reflect on how to "use the web" purposefully and intentionally to access information and human resources in a manner that is conducive to learning. Therefore, the WELES illustrate a union between methods of teaching and web resources. This instruction provides you with ideas on how to enhance the strategies you use every day in your classrooms, namely to **FRAME** learning activities within current and meaningful realities, **INFORM** students about lesson content, provide opportunities for students to **EXPLORE** information and knowledge, and arrange occasions to **TRY** out new knowledge.

It is important to reemphasize that each of the Web-Enhanced Learning Environment Strategies **enhances** what you already do in your classroom. The enhancement comes from those Web resources you add to your preferred method of teaching.