



# Educator Network Collective Toolbox

The resources literacy practitioners shared in the Winter 2022 Blended Learning Network

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March 12, 2022



# About

As part of the [Educator Network](#) Blended Learning program, literacy practitioners share the resources that are most helpful in creating lessons and activities that engage learners and enhance and expand learning.

This is the collection from the Winter 2022 group.

These are the blended learning resources, activities and tools that practitioners have tested and are recommending. On some pages you will see their reviews or tips.

We start with an explanation of some of the terms we used and a link to a website about curating resources.

On the next page you will find an index. Some topics have several pages. If you open the PDF in a browser (from the link), you can use the back button to return to the index.



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# Types of Learning Resources

More here: [sites.google.com/alphaplus.ca/curation/curating-resources/resources-types](https://sites.google.com/alphaplus.ca/curation/curating-resources/resources-types)

## Evergreen

- a library of resources that changes infrequently
- static links to resources and activities

Examples:

[TEDTalks](#)

[RSA Videos](#)

[CBC Docs](#)

## Streaming

- changes and updates frequently

Examples:

YouTube

TikTok

government websites

## Pre-built learning

- can include both evergreen resources and streaming content
- includes learning activities and supports

Examples:

[West Coast Reader](#)

[GCFLearnFree](#)

[Khan Academy](#)



# Online Literacy Courses

LearningHUB

[www.learninghub.ca](http://www.learninghub.ca)

Good Learning Anywhere

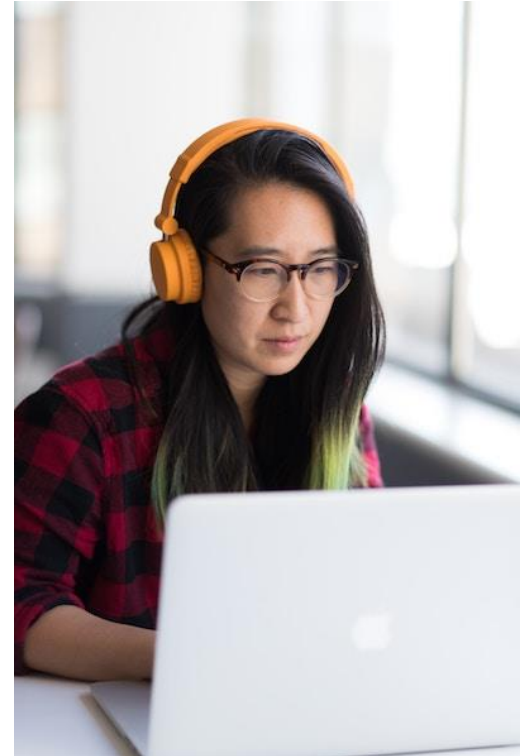
[goodlearninganywhere.com](http://goodlearninganywhere.com)

e-Channel

[e-channel.ca](http://e-channel.ca)

Questions re e-Channel

- [e-channel.ca/echannel-resources](http://e-channel.ca/echannel-resources)
- [e-channel.ca/practitioners/practitioner-how-to-resources-videos](http://e-channel.ca/practitioners/practitioner-how-to-resources-videos)



# General Knowledge and Tech - Pre-Built learning

GCF Learn Free

[edu.gcfglobal.org/en](http://edu.gcfglobal.org/en)

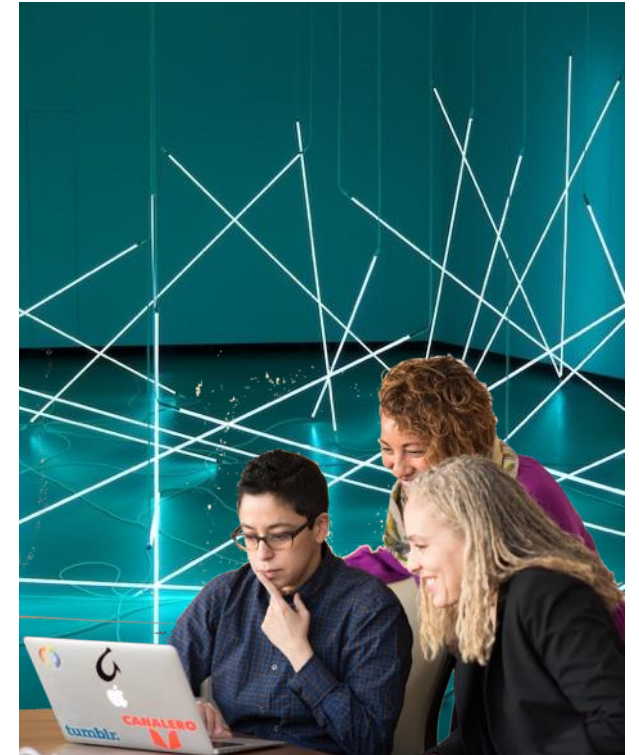
LinkedIn Learning

[www.linkedin.com/learning](http://www.linkedin.com/learning)

*(often free through public library)*

AlphaPlus Project about LinkedIn Learning in Literacy

[alphaplus.ca/download/linkedin-learning-report](http://alphaplus.ca/download/linkedin-learning-report)



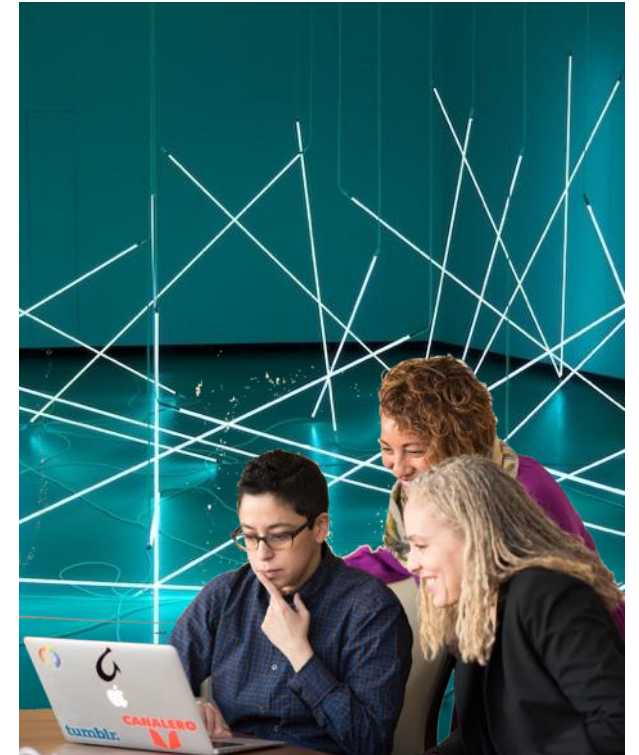
# General Knowledge and Tech - Pre-Built learning

Literacy Link South Central Community Tech Connect

[www.llsc.on.ca/community-tech-connect-2020](http://www.llsc.on.ca/community-tech-connect-2020)

Module sets to download:

- [Digital Literacy for Francophone Populations](#)
- [Digital Literacy for Diverse Learning Needs](#)
- [Digital Literacy for the Community](#)





# Numeracy – Pre-Built learning

## BBC Skillswise

[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise)

[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/maths/zfdymfr](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/maths/zfdymfr)

Free videos and downloadable worksheets to help adult learners improve their calculation and numeracy skills.

## Khan Academy

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

Khan Academy's library of trusted practice and lessons covers math, science, and more. K-12

## Math Antics

[www.mathantics.com](http://www.mathantics.com)

Math lessons are organized by topic typically covered between 3rd and 8th grade. Older students may find our lessons helpful for review. Math Antics is not a complete curriculum for any grade. K-12





# Reading and Writing - Pre-Built learning

## Readworks

[www.readworks.org](http://www.readworks.org)

*Students can highlight, annotate, and complete assignments online. Teachers can access progress reports & automatic grading. Or print any of our content and curriculum to share with your students. K-12.*

## Spellzone

[www.spellzone.com/index.cfm](http://www.spellzone.com/index.cfm)

*Spellzone unlocks the mystery of Canadian, British and American English spelling and adapts to all abilities. Students can work on tailored learning pathways at their own pace and on any device. Time-saving reporting tools allow teachers to monitor progress and evaluate student activity with just the click of a button. K-12*



# Reading and Writing - Pre-Built learning

## Quill

[www.quill.org](http://www.quill.org)

Free writing and grammar activities for elementary, middle, and high school students.

- [Quill Connect](#)

Advance from fragmented and run-on sentences to complex and well-structured ones.

- [Quill Lessons](#)

Lesson plans, writing prompts, discussion topics, and a follow up independent practice activity.

- [Quill Diagnostic](#)

Quickly determine which skills you need to work on with our diagnostics. The diagnostics cover vital sentence construction skills and generate personalized learning plans based on the student's performance.

- [Quill Proofreader](#)

Proofreader teaches students editing skills by having them proofread passages. Students edit passages and receive personalized exercises based on their results.



# Reading and Writing – Worksheets

## Read Theory

[readtheory.org](https://readtheory.org)

### Adult (ABE) Reading Comprehension Worksheets & Tests

[readtheory.org/reading-comprehension-worksheets/adult-abe](https://readtheory.org/reading-comprehension-worksheets/adult-abe)

- Free, printable and accessible online – a perfect fit for adult students
- Each worksheet has a description of the type comprehension questions included
- All worksheets have 3 versions:
  1. Just the text
  2. The text with the questions
  3. The text with the questions and the answers

Review:

I started with Read Theory last year with a few of my learners. I do like the ability to track their progress BUT I will say if you have a learner who tends to make progress slowly this might not be the best for them. Stories can become a bit repetitive and when THEY see they aren't progressing in such a visual way it can become frustrating for them.



# Reading and Writing - Worksheets

Englishforeveryone.org  
[englishforeveryone.org](http://englishforeveryone.org)

EnglishForEveryone.org is your resource for printable English worksheets.

BBC Skillswise  
[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/english/zjg4scw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/english/zjg4scw)

Free videos and downloadable worksheets to help adult learners improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar.



# Proofreading and Editing - Tools

Grammarly

[www.grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com)

Grammar Check

[www.grammarly.com/grammar-check](https://www.grammarly.com/grammar-check)

Check your English text for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors with Grammarly's free grammar checker.

Plagiarism Checker

[www.grammarly.com/plagiarism-checker](https://www.grammarly.com/plagiarism-checker)

Grammarly's plagiarism checker detects plagiarism in your text and checks for other writing issues.

You can use the tool for free online or add apps to your computer or web browser.



# Proofreading and Editing - Tools

## Quillbot

[quillbot.com](https://quillbot.com)

Free online

- Paraphraser - Refine, enhance, or simply reword your written work.
- Grammar Checker - Polish your work by addressing punctuation, spelling, and word misuse.
- Summarizer - Summarize news, articles, long emails, or even your own writing.
- Citation Generator - Get perfect APA, MLA, and Chicago style citations in one click.
- Word Counter



Plus a Paraphrasing Guide

[quillbot.com/guides/paraphrasing](https://quillbot.com/guides/paraphrasing)

Read more about how to use the tool as a student here: [quillbot.com/student-resources](https://quillbot.com/student-resources)





# Storytelling and Debating – Podcasts

## The Moth Story Hour

[themoth.org/stories](http://themoth.org/stories)

*They run workshops teaching people how to write a true story from their life.*

## Grownups Read Things They Wrote as Kids

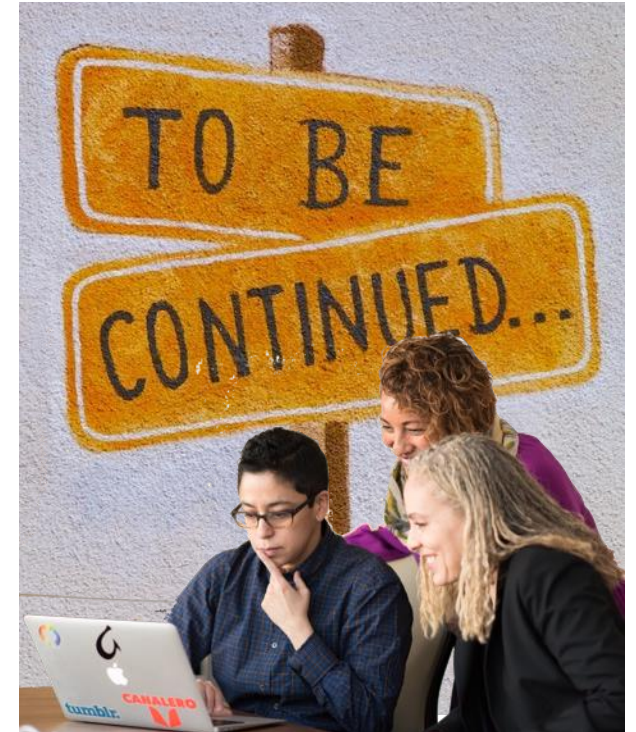
[grownupsreadthingstheywroteaskids.com/podcast](http://grownupsreadthingstheywroteaskids.com/podcast)

*Since 2007, brave adults across Canada have shared their own weird and wonderful childhood and teenage writing at Grownups Read Things They Wrote as Kids, a live, onstage storytelling event. The show's goals are to entertain and to invite everyone — readers and audience members — to reflect on their own lives, to connect with who they used to be, and to draw a line that connects the past and the present.*

## CBC The Debaters

[www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-126-the-debaters](http://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-126-the-debaters)

*Comedians go toe-to-toe in a battle of laughs and logic. The engaging format is part stand-up, part quiz show and part comedy competition, with the live audience picking the winners.*



# Storytelling - Evergreen

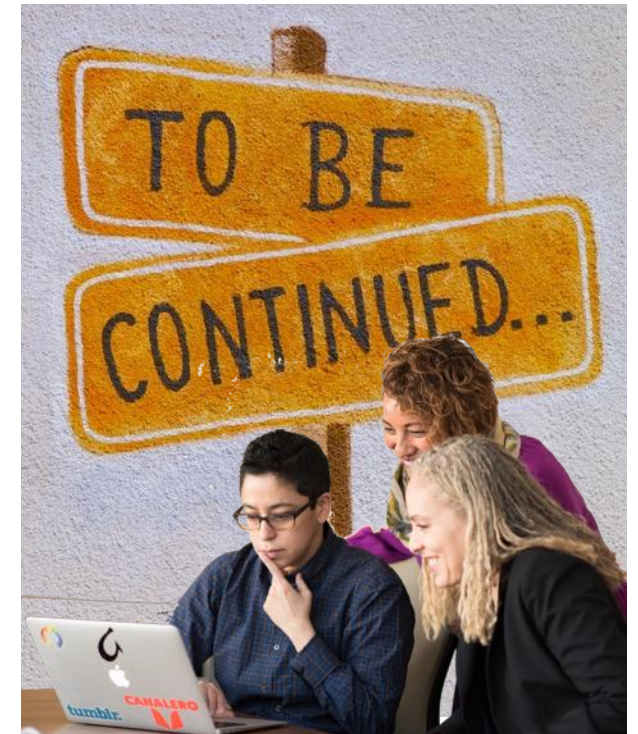
## StoryCorps

[storycorps.org](http://storycorps.org)

People interview each other and ask the questions they've always wanted to ask their friends, family, co-workers, and people in their communities.

*We do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations.*

- Great Questions  
[storycorps.org/participate/great-questions](http://storycorps.org/participate/great-questions)
- Tips for a Great Conversation  
[storycorps.org/participate/tips-for-a-great-conversation](http://storycorps.org/participate/tips-for-a-great-conversation)
- Resources for Educators  
[storycorps.org/discover/education](http://storycorps.org/discover/education)



# Reading the News - Pre-Built learning

- CBC Learning English  
[www.cbc.ca/learning-english](http://www.cbc.ca/learning-english)
- Newsela  
[newsela.com/articles/#/rule/latest](http://newsela.com/articles/#/rule/latest)
- Simple English News  
[www.simpleenglishnews.com](http://www.simpleenglishnews.com)
- News in Levels *(there is a level assessment when you start)*  
[www.newsinlevels.com](http://www.newsinlevels.com)
- The BBC  
[www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/newsreview](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/newsreview)
- Voice of America *(core vocab of 1500 words)*  
[learningenglish.voanews.com](http://learningenglish.voanews.com)



# Reading the News - Evergreen

- Pocket  
[getpocket.com/en](http://getpocket.com/en)
  - [getpocket.com/collections?utm\\_source=homepage](http://getpocket.com/collections?utm_source=homepage)
- News for Kids  
[newsforkids.net](http://newsforkids.net)
- Breaking News English *(nothing at the beginner level)*  
[breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)
- Citizen Lab  
[citizenlab.ca](http://citizenlab.ca)
  - *from the University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy*

Review:

*I like GCFLearnfree and Tech Connect for technology, Khan Academy and Math Antics for math, BBC Skillswise for writing as well as scanned textbooks and Pocket and News for Kids to get ideas about articles to use (I like to use the original articles rather than the ones geared to kids).*



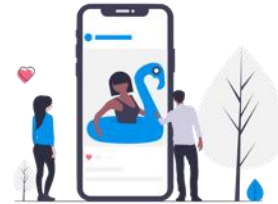


# Media Literacy- Pre-Built learning

## Social Media Test Drive

[socialmediatestdrive.org](https://socialmediatestdrive.org)

- *Social Media TestDrive prepares young people for the online world through experiential learning in a simulated social media environment.*
- *Social Media TestDrive simulates realistic digital dilemmas and scenarios that young people may encounter as they enter the social media world.*
- *Each module teaches essential [digital citizenship](#) concepts, covering topics such as privacy, online identities, cyberbullying, and more.*



Review: Do you find these are well received by adults too?  
*It depends on which modules you look at, and how you choose to go through the examples; I've found that ones like the "Scams and phishing" are generally great for any audience, and you can verbally discuss the beginning/ending definition activities instead of having people click through them individually, to make it less "school-y" for an individual or a whole group.*



# Media Literacy- Pre-Built learning

## Sifting Through the Coronavirus Pandemic

[infodemic.blog](https://infodemic.blog)

*Learn the skills that will make a dramatic difference in your ability to sort fact from fiction on the web (and everything in between).*



STOP



INVESTIGATE THE  
SOURCE



FIND BETTER COVERAGE



TRACE CLAIMS, QUOTES  
AND MEDIA TO THE  
ORIGINAL CONTEXT

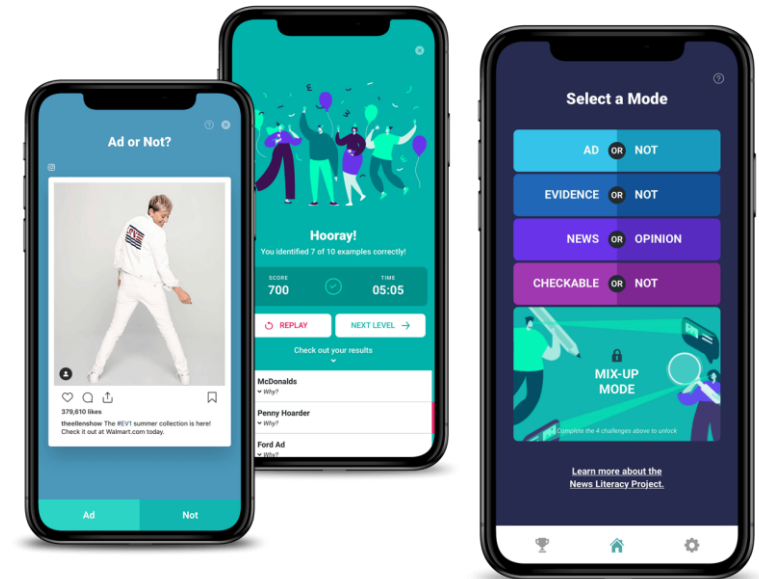




# Media Literacy- Pre-Built learning App

## Informable App [informable.newslit.org](https://informable.newslit.org)

- *Test your news literacy know-how with Informable! Score points for accuracy and speed across three levels of difficulty in four distinct modes.*
- *From the News Literacy Project - [newslit.org/newslit-nation](https://newslit.org/newslit-nation)*
- *Google Play and Apple Store*
- *Can play as a guest*



# Media Literacy- Pre-Built learning

## Media Literacy Crash Course\*

[thecrashcourse.com/topic/media-literacy](https://thecrashcourse.com/topic/media-literacy)

- *12 videos on a variety of media literacy topics.*
- *At Crash Course, we believe that high quality educational videos should be available to everyone for free.*
- *The Crash Course team has produced more than 15 courses to date, and these videos accompany high school and college level classes ranging from the humanities to the sciences.*
- *Crash Course transforms the traditional textbook model by presenting information in a fast-paced format, enhancing the learning experience.*



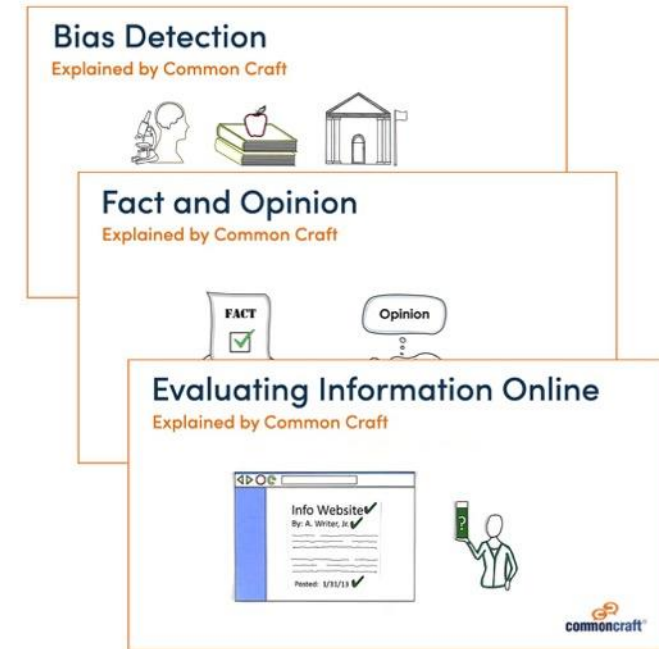
\* Tracey added this – not tested by literacy instructors



# Media Literacy– Videos and Worksheets

## Information Literacy Pack - CommonCraft Videos\*

- Videos w/ English captions, transcripts and lesson plans (some parts will work for literacy learners) from CommonCraft - <https://www.commoncraft.com>.
- To see the videos without banners or a paid account use this link: <https://sites.google.com/alphaplus.ca/curation/curating-resources#h.ibadldm1siib>



\* Tracey added this – not tested by literacy instructors



# News and Media Literacy – Podcasts

## Front Burner – CBC

[www.cbc.ca/radio/frontburner](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/frontburner)

*Front Burner is a daily news podcast that explores the big stories of the day with curiosity and an open mind.*

## Canadaland

[www.canadaland.com/shows/canadaland](http://www.canadaland.com/shows/canadaland)

*Canadaland is a news site and podcast network funded by its audience. Our primary focus is on Canadian media, news, current affairs, and politics.*

Occasionally the podcasts can get a little sweary.



# Career Development – Goals and Pathways

## Alberta Alis

[alis.alberta.ca/careerinsite/know-yourself/understand-your-interests/](https://alis.alberta.ca/careerinsite/know-yourself/understand-your-interests/)

*Find out how you can turn what you love into a career. Discover why, how, and when to plan your career. Explore your skills, interests, passions, and what you value in a job.*

Review:

*This is a career development site I've found useful. It has nice online activities for exploring interests and skills with jobs to match.*



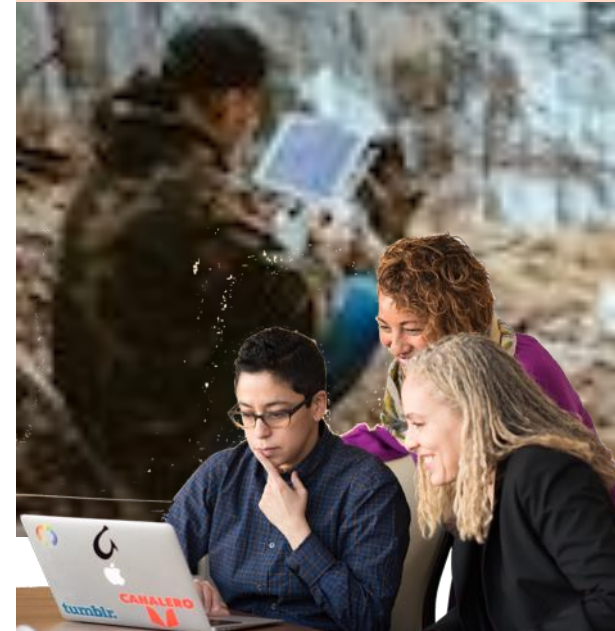
# Streaming

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com>

Tip:

*You can slow down the playback speed and search visually along the timeline of the videos*





# E-Teaching Tools

## [Zoom](#)

For videoconferencing

## [Google Docs](#)

For creating and collaborating on written work

## [Google Slides](#)

For creating and collaborating on multi-media work

## [Google Drive](#)

For storing, organizing and sharing creations and collections

## [Pear Deck](#)

Slides with integrated interactive activities

Review:

*I love being able to organize my materials (mostly visuals) in a format that can be reordered on the fly and shared with students. I also like them for doing group work all in one place. It is really easy to monitor everyone's work.*  
(Google Drive)



# Google Classroom



## Review:

We decided to go with Google Classroom and other programs that complement it (Google Meet, Jamboard, Pear Deck, etc.). We also looked at the Microsoft One Drive and Teams format as that is what we use for our daily work with our peers. Ultimately considering costs as well we went with Google.

I do admit there was A LOT to learn both as an instructor and for the learners themselves. My co-worker Helen and I had to learn the whole process by ourselves. We watched a lot of "how-to" tutorials smile With time and patience, we got there though. Any trouble shooting we did typically came from Googling what the problem was 😊

We spent a very intensive few weeks covering different aspects of Google Classroom and Meet to start once I had the learners back in class with me. Some who already had tech skills to build on adjusted fairly fast. Others really struggled. I found the key was to go very slow. I would only cover a few things each day and we would repeat those steps together. I would have it up on the SmartBoard in our classroom so everyone could follow along and see where to click and move to. The next day we would go through the same steps again and add one or two more. We did a lot of practicing in class. For those who were ready to move on, I encouraged them to explore on their own. My lifesaver move was ensuring everyone knew how to share their screens with me in Google Meet. When they would call/text saying they were stuck we'd set up a Google Meet, I'd have them share their screen, and from there I could walk them through what they needed to do because I could see everything as they saw it. Watching people navigate their screens and see what they intuitively want to do is very enlightening!

Over time I have let things evolve naturally. Some of the learners have really taken to it. Others, who do not see applications for this knowledge outside of the classroom, I have allowed to step back and revert to more traditional methods of learning. They don't submit work through Google Classroom to me, rather text me pictures of written work, or e-mail them to me. In hindsight, I feel I might have pushed some of them a little too hard in the direction of leveraging technology. It is not for everyone. For some it created unnecessary stress I think and detracted from what their goals were.



# About Literacy – Podcasts

## *Plugged in with Di and Warren* from Good Learning Anywhere

*Available on Spotify, Anchor, Pocket Casts, Breaker Podcasts, RadioPublic or Google Podcasts or [YouTube](#).*

*Join Diane and Warren as they discuss the finer points and challenges of online education and explore interesting topics and hot trends with an amazing line up of guests.*

## *What's Literacy Got To Do With It?* from Literacy Quebec

[www.literacyquebec.org/podcast.html](http://www.literacyquebec.org/podcast.html)

*A community-based podcast for English-speaking, lifelong literacy learners in Quebec that explores topics around community building, lifelong curiosity, and the multiple types of literacy.*





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Compiled by Tracey Mollins

[tmollins@alphaplus.ca](mailto:tmollins@alphaplus.ca)

[alphaplus.ca](http://alphaplus.ca)

416-322-1012 x 108

1-800-788-1120 x 108

