Tools for Collaborative Learning
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Wikis
- a wiki is a **website** built around software that allows for **easy collaboration** without requiring knowledge of coding – all members of the wiki can **add content** and **edit** the site
- allows **multiple, hyperlinked pages**
- allows embedding of **audio and video**
- **tracks** who edits and when
- allows for **discussion**
- a wiki can be a **course management tool**
- a wiki can be used to **collaboratively design a course**, as Sawyer’s Psychology of Creativity class did
  - value in this was student ownership, but the collaborative approach also required students to become **thoughtful about course themes**, how these connect, and why they are significant
- a wiki can be used as a site for **student collaboration** around course material; groups of students can create a wiki in lieu of a group paper; this allows them to use embedded graphics, audio or video

Blogs
- blog = web-log
- allows **posts, comments**, embedded **audio and video**
- can be used as a **course management** site
- can be used as a place to **address student questions**, etc.
- can be used as a site for students to **write about course content** – **individual** blogs with others commenting, or **group** blog
- has the advantages of **making student thinking public** to each other, and fostering **on-going discussion**, although students cannot edit each other’s posts

Telesis discussion forum
- allows for **threaded discussion**
- a large class can be put in smaller groups (go to: tools – groups)
- as with blogs, the value of this discussion forum for learning will depend on the **structure of the assignment** – requiring student to **respond to others** in a way that **engages with their peers’ ideas and arguments** can be helpful

Google Documents
- upload a word file or write one from scratch
- invite others to edit – great for student collaboration or even academics collaborating across universities
- has comments feature and tracks who changes what when
- docs.google.com

For more on these and other technology tools for teaching see: