



TECH TIDBITS



REWORDIFY



Rewordify is a powerful, free, online software. It improves reading, learning, and teaching by adjusting the difficulty or any text.

You can copy and paste text into their box, or if you need it to simplify an entire website, you can copy the URL.

I did try the link to a Google Doc, but could not get it to work with permissions, so I suggest copy/pasting.

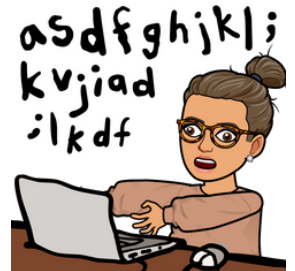
Also - the main issue I had with it is that I tried an upper level essay about Pearl Harbor and it flagged harbor as a hard word, so it changed them all to, "Pearl safe place for boats." Which is funny, but I could not figure out a way to make it ignore just one word.

<https://rewordify.com/index.php>

KEYBOARDING

Here are some great keyboarding sites to try with your students!

- [Dance Mat Typing](#)
- [Nitro Type](#)
- [Typing Club](#)
- [Typing.com](#)



Another great one is [typingtest.com](https://www.typingtest.com), it will let you print a certificate to show off your wpm. I will share mine here, don't judge. I promise it was higher in high school.

I think it might be fun to all take the test and share the certificates we get. The highest two scores sent to me by the end of February get a Scooters Coffee or Loaded Tea on me!

Link for the Certificate Test:

<https://www.typingtest.com/certificate.html>

Scratch Off Reveal

with Google Jamboard

Erase the ink to slowly reveal what's underneath

1

Make a copy

Make a **copy** of the template at learninginhand.com/scratchoff.

2

Set background

Click **Set Background** and choose your image.

3

The image is behind the blue ink, so you won't see it.

4



Click the **Eraser** tool.

5



Drag the eraser across the ink to gradually uncover the image. Click **Clear frame** to reveal the entire picture.

Clear frame

Love it or hate it, artificial intelligence is going to become more and more prevalent as time passes. Chat GPT proves that it is here to stay.

We may need to pivot the way we teach. I can think of a multitude of ways to use this positively in a classroom.

I will admit, my initial reaction was BAN IT, BLOCK IT. After I did some research and thought about how it could enhance the classroom and I am taking the approach of the New York Times, "Don't Ban Chat GPT in Schools. Teach With It."



The question then becomes how do we teach children to use this power for good and not evil? Yes, some will use it to cheat no matter what, but let's be real, the ones that do would have found another way to as well.

Blocking or BANNING the use of it on school devices is not going to stop those who want to use it from doing so.

I suggest that if you are worried about cheating, when you assign an essay topic or reading comprehension question, YOU go and Chat GPT it. Then you will have an idea of the type of answers it will give.

My advice? Embrace it. Save yourself some planning time.

It's also a little fun to play with. I asked it to create a recipe with: steak, Fruit Loops, peanut butter, and noodles. It wrote me a recipe for a cereal crusted steak served with noodles and a peanut butter sauce. Hmm.... maybe my kiddos will eat that! What are your thoughts? Are you already seeing this in class? I would love to dive a little deeper into this and how you are dealing with or what you plan to do.

PROS
 Make easy to follow lesson plans
 will show work on complex math problems - great for checking work
 Prompts on demand



CONS
 Can write essays that are difficult to tell if they are plagiarized
 shows work on math problems
 Can answer all types of questions

WAYS TO EMBRACE

Generate Short Stories, Generate Vocabulary Lists, Create Mad Lib Activities, Create Gap-Fill Exercises, Make Reading Comprehension Questions

Chromebook

Touchpad Tips



			
			
Move the pointer	Right-click	See all open windows	Switch between virtual desks
			
Drag and drop	Scroll	Open link in a new tab, or close a tab	More tips: bit.ly/curts-cbtips
			<p>By: Eric Curts</p> <p>Ctrl Alt </p> <p>controlaltachieve.com</p> <p>ericcurts@gmail.com</p> <p>bit.ly/curts-news</p> <p>@ericcurts</p> 
Click	Move between pages	Switch between tabs	

TIKTOK & TEACHING

Okay - Hear me out! TikTok is not just an app where students go to waste time... It is actually a great platform for micro/nano lessons or single concept lessons. Search a topic and you will find a lot, some will be a waste of time, but not all of them. When I find a video I like I follow the creator so I see their new content first. My most searched terms to find content to share?

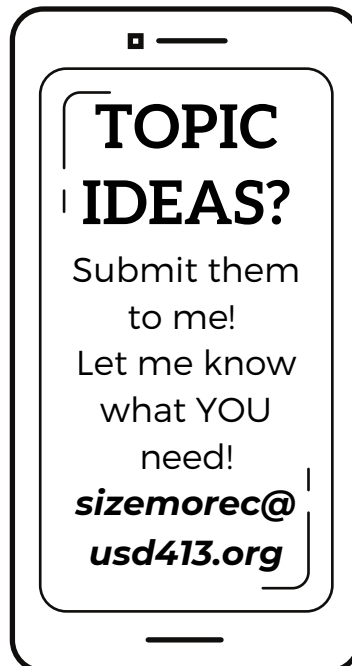
- Ed Tech
- Tech Integration
- School Technology

You get the idea - go see if you can find a video that is related to your content OR make your own for your class!



TECH TIDBITS NEWSLETTER LINKS

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/12/technology/chatgpt-schools-teachers.html>
- <https://www.dancemattypingguide.com/>
- <https://www.nitrotype.com/>
- <https://rewordify.com/index.php>
- <https://www.typingclub.com/>
- <https://www.typing.com/>



UPCOMING CONTENT

These are created content pieces that will be coming out soon!

- **CANVA Updates** / New Features (video)
 - Edit PDFs
 - Remove Video Backgrounds
 - Collaboration Tools
 - Whiteboards
 - Canva Events
- **AR in the Classroom** (video)
- **Easy Ways to Gamify Your Classroom** (graphic/video)
- **Nano Learning to Success** (graphic/video)

UNIT RESOURCES

If you have an upcoming unit or a topic that you would like me to find digital content and activities for, just send it my way! I love scouring the internet for valuable resources. Send me the topic(s) and the grade level and I will add it to our list!