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Quick Takes–
Create ePortfolios Using Google
Sites

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Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators both nationally and internationally on various aspects of technology use in schools. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provides a brief overview of an emerging technology along with examples of how educators are using this tool and further information available in the TICAL Resources Database.

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This Quick Take Asks...

• What are Google Sites?
• How do Google Sites support ePortfolios?
• Where can I learn more?

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In part, assessment of mastery of the Common Core State Standards relies on student portfolios. In addition, there is a growing expectation that adults will develop and maintain professional portfolios in addition to, or in lieu of, a resume. This Quick Take focuses on a simple tool that educators can use to create ePortfolios. This Quick Take addresses three questions: "What are Google Sites?," "How do Google Sites support ePortfolios?" and, "Where can I learn more?"

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What is a Google Site?

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According to Wikipedia, "Google Sites is a structured wiki- and web page-creation tool offered by Google as part of the Google Apps Productivity suite. The goal of Google Sites is for anyone to be able to create a team-oriented site where multiple people can collaborate and share files."
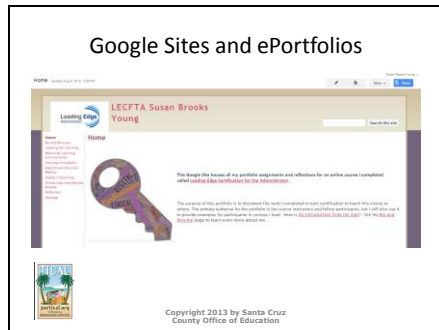
http://www.portical.org/Presentations/quick_takes/#eportfolios

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Pros	Cons
Easy to create	Limited customization
Offers leveled collaboration	100 MB storage for free account
Supports many types of information	Limits on what can be embedded from non-Google apps

Following the directions provided online , it takes just a few minutes to set up a new Google Site. One very nice feature is the ability to invite collaborators at three different levels. Owners have full editing permissions; editors can change content, but not the site design; and, viewers can look at the site, but not make any changes. Google Sites enable owners and editors to display a variety of different kinds of information such as text, images, video, presentations, and much more, making this a perfect tool for creating and maintaining ePortfolios.
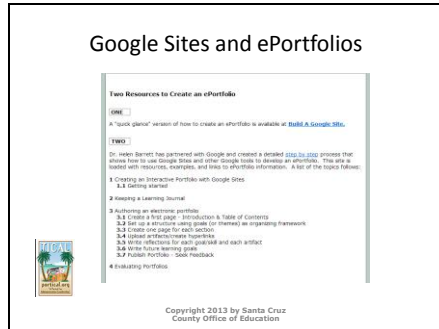
On the downside, the simplicity of Google Sites limits the amount of customization more experienced users might want to make and the amount of free storage per site that is available to free personal accounts is 100 MB, with attachments limited to 20 MB.
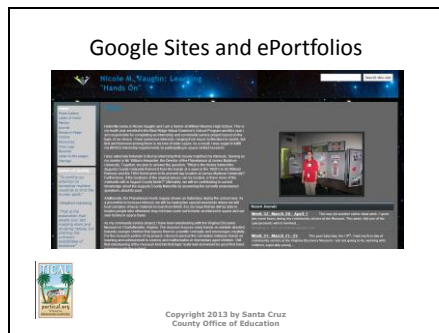
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Google Sites and ePortfolios

Wikipedia defines an ePortfolio as, "…a collection of electronic evidence assembled and managed by a user, usually on the Web. Such electronic evidence may include inputted text, electronic files, images, multimedia , blog entries, and hyperlinks. E-portfolios are both demonstrations of the user's abilities and platforms for self-expression, and, if they are online, they can be maintained dynamically over time." There are commercial products educators can use to create and maintain ePortfolios, but Google Sites is a reasonable alternative for both educator and student online portfolios. This slide features a screenshot of a professional ePortfolio I created for the Leading Edge Administrator online class using Google Sites. The link to this portfolio is provided at the end of this Quick Take and the portfolio can also be accessed in the TICAL resource database.

http://www.portical.org/Presentations/quick_takes/#eportfolios

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A Google Sites ePortfolio can be set up using a regular public Google account, but when working with students, educator Helen Barrett recommends using Google Sites that have been set up within a Google Apps for Education domain in the belief that this approach offers more control and security. Dr. Barrett has partnered with Google to develop a detailed process for creating an ePortfolio in Google Sites. This information is referenced at the end of this Quick Take and can be accessed in the TICAL resource database.

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Student portfolios can take different formats. Developmental portfolios are used to document works in progress. For example, the portfolio page shown here is from a high school student's senior project which was used to record a nearly year-long endeavor. Formal portfolios are often used to showcase exemplary examples of student work. Assessment portfolios are used to document student achievement of specific criteria or skill sets. Sample student portfolios are included in the ePortfolio Resource Center link provided at the end of this Quick Take.

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Whether you're looking for a way to document individual growth or showcase related projects as is the case with the site shown here, Google Sites is an easy, cost effective way to develop and share ePortfolios.

http://www.portical.org/Presentations/quick_takes/#eportfolios

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Learn more

- Google Sites Help at http://goo.gl/83oSp
- Storage and File Limits at http://goo.gl/CZDBx
- Google Sites at http://sites.google.com

This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about Google Sites and ePortfolios. The links provided on this slide lead to information about Google Sites and to the actual Google Sites website.

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Learn more

- ePortfolios with Google Apps at http://goo.gl/Q6xOE
- ePortfolio Resource Center http://goo.gl/hlVKU
- Susan Brooks-Young's LECFTA Portfolio at http://goo.gl/Zi3Fp

This slide provides links to information about ePortfolios and Google Sites and also an example of an ePortfolio created using a Google Site. Each of these resources can be found in the TICAL Resource database.

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Thank you!

Google Sites offer exciting opportunities for educators and students to develop and maintain ePortfolios. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about this emerging technology.

http://www.portical.org/Presentations/quick_takes/#eportfolios