

**Title of Session:** K-12 Students in Tapped In

**Moderator:** Marielle Palombo

**Title of File:** 20050427k12students

**Date:** April 27, 2005

Room: Comfy Conference Room

**BJB2:** Welcome, everyone to today's special K-12 Students in Tapped In discussion

**MarielleP:** Hello, all!

**BJB2:** Marielle is the discussion leader.

**BJB2:** we usually start all the discussions with brief introductions

**BJB2:** can you please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach?

**JenniferCT:** My name is Jennifer and I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston. I graduate in May, and I was just hired today to teach third grade next year

**EricaRe:** I am in Houston and plan on teaching first or second grade

**MariaGst5:** I go to University of Houston and next will I will start teaching

**MarielleP:** I'm an educator and doctoral candidate in education, and I'm based in the Boston area.

**RichardR:** I am located at Texas A&M Kingsville and am working on a masters degree in Instructional Technology

**MariaGst5:** congrats Jennifer

**BJB2:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

**LisaStr:** My name is Lisa and I am a sixth grade language arts teacher in St. Louis, MO.

**JaclynC:** Hello. My name is Jaclyn and I am also a preservice teacher at the University of Akron, OH

**JenniferCT:** thanks Maria

**JaclynC:** I am a secondary education major with an emphasis on language arts.

**MarielleP:** Welcome, everyone.

**MarielleP:** It looks like we have a diverse crowd.

**MariaVa:** Hi, My name is Maria and I'm a preservice teacher at the University of Houston

**MarielleP:** Has anyone used TI with students already?

**BrendaQ:** hi my name is Brenda and I'm a student teacher from the University of Houston

**JenniferCT:** Not yet, but I hope to get ideas today

**MarielleP:** Can you raise your hand if you're pre-service?

**MarielleP** demonstrates raising her hand.

**LisaStr:** No. I'm curious to learn a little bit about it today.

**JenniferCT:** How do you raise your hand?

**EricaRe:** hand raised

**BJB2** . o O ( to raise your hand type :raises her/his hand )

**MariaGst5:** hand raised

**JaclynC:** I am really interested in using Tapped In with my students as well

**BrendaQ** raises her hand

**JenniferCT** raises her/his hand

**MarielleP:** You can display an action by starting with a colon (:)

**MarielleP:** nice!

**RichardR** raises his hand

**JaclynC:** hand raised

**BJB2:** a reminder that if you're new to Tapped In, click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

**MarielleP** looks around the room and nods.

**MarielleP:** Okay. Now can you raise your hand if you are already an elementary teacher?

**SusanR** raises hand

**LisaStr** hand raised

**AnaI** joined the room.

**JenniferCT:** Hey Ana

**AnaI:** hello!

**MarielleP:** Looks like some of you know each other...

**MarielleP:** Might this be an assignment?

**EricaRe:** yes

**MarielleP:** Any middle school teachers?

**RichardR** raises his hand

**BJB2** . o O ( sign of success when you become an assignment, Marielle )

**MarielleP:** High school?

**LisaStr** hand raised

**MarielleP:** Ok.

**LisaStr:** my hand was raised for middle school:)

**MarielleP:** I'd like to shape this session to suit your needs and interests.

**BJB2** raises her hand

**MarielleP:** So if you have a specific question or topic of interest, could you write it on the whiteboard?

**BrendaQ:** ok

**JenniferCT:** k, sounds good

**MarielleP:** You can do this at any point during the session.

**JaclynC:** ok

**MariaGst5:** what's the whiteboard....

**EricaRe:** k

**MariaVa:** ok

**BJB2:** the whiteboard is a text feature of Tapped In

**MarielleP:** So, I'll give you a quick overview first...

**MariaGst5:** ok

**BrendaQ:** k

**MariaVa:** Marielle, what grade do you teach?

**MarielleP:** The student activity center is a separate campus.

**BJB2:** it can be used to post the agenda for a meeting, questions for students to respond to, etc.

**MarielleP:** When I was last in the classroom, I taught 6th grade.

**BJB2** listens to Marielle's explanation of the student campus

**AnaI:** How do we look at the whiteboard?

**MarielleP:** I have been doing some research with 6th grade students in TI.

**RichardR:** What does your research focus on?

**MarielleP:** Which I will explain later if people are interested.

**BJB2** . o O ( it will help you understand if you please stop typing for a while and listen to Marielle )

**RichardR:** k

**MarielleP:** No worries - it's hard to figure out how to converse in this new environment.

**MarielleP:** I'll invite questions later, but in the meantime, feel free to write them on the whiteboard.

**MarielleP:** Other than being more secure for students, the SAC is very similar to the main TI campus.

**MarielleP:** You can create rooms for different groups of students.

**MarielleP:** And people are using the tools in all sorts of different ways...

**MarielleP:** To facilitate peer review of student work, to store class documents and links, to organize research group projects, for asynchronous discussions about literature...

**MarielleP:** The best way to find out about what people are doing is to join the K-12 Students in TI group.

**MarielleP:** Is anyone already a member?

**EricaRe:** no

**BJB2** raises her hand

**MarielleP** winks at BJ.

**LisaStr:** no

**MariaVa:** no

**RichardR:** nope

**JaclynC:** not yet

**BrendaQ:** no not yet

**MariaGst5:** no

**AnaI:** no

**MarielleP:** Well, I think that is the best way to get ideas...

**MarielleP:** In that room, there are some threaded discussions where people share ideas and discuss issues...

**BJB2:** I'm going to have you all join the K-12 Students in TI group and we can move to that room

**SusanR** raises her hand

**BJB2:** everyone please attach your chat window first

**MarielleP:** There are transcripts of previous chats which are full of information from people using TI with students.

**BJB2:** . o O ( go to actions and attach if you've detached )

**BJB2:** everyone ready?

**JenniferCT:** yes

**MarielleP:** Ok, BJ. That makes sense.

**RichardR:** yep

**MariaGst5:** yes...

**BJB2:** click on the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen

**AnaI:** yes

**BJB2:** then click on GROUPS

**BJB2:** enter K-12 STUDENTS IN TI

**BJB2:** and press the find it button

**MarielleP:** I'll run ahead to welcome people...

**BJB2:** click on the match with JudiF's name

**BJB2:** . o O ( everyone get a match? )

**JenniferCT:** yes

**MarielleP** left the room.

**EricaRe:** yes

**AnaI:** YES

**BJB2:** when you click on the match, you'll see the group ID page

**BJB2:** at the top of the page is a place to join the group

**BJB2:** once you've joined, you'll see a passageway or door icon at the bottom of the screen that will take you to the group room

**MariaGst5:** oh it wont let me join

**MariaGst5:** cuz I'm a guest...

**MariaGst5:** should I become a member first then?

**BJB2** nods to Maria. Yes, I suggest you do that

**MariaGst5:** ok

**MariaGst5** left the room (signed off).

Room: K-12 Student Group Room

**BjB** joined the room.

**MarielleP:** Are we all here, BJ?

**BjB:** just one more, Marielle

**MarielleP:** So, is everyone looking at the Student project update discussion?

**JenniferCT:** yes

**AnaI:** yes

**EmilyW:** yes

**MarielleP:** Ok. I'll give you a moment to do that...

**MariaCho** joined the room.

**JaclynC:** yes

**RichardR:** yes

**MariaCho:** ok I made it

**MarielleP:** Welcome!

**MariaCho:** yea thank u

**NormaM:** yes

**EricaRe:** yes

**JaclynC:** This is a great way to converse with others

**MariaVa** joined the room.

**MarielleP:** Since we are all relatively new to this (using TI with students)...

**BjB** sighs...NOW we're all here, Marielle

**BjB** . o O ( good job, everyone! )

**MarielleP:** this room serves as a place for us to share ideas, troubleshoot issues, etc.

**MariaVa:** thanks BJ

**RichardR** smiles

**MarielleP:** Thanks, BJ!

**JaclynC** thanks BJ

**MarielleP** gives the ultimate TI guide a hearty pat on the back.

**MarielleP:** If you're truly interested in learning what others are doing, I suggest spending some time perusing the discussion boards, chat transcripts (in the Files area), etc.

**MarielleP:** The whole community is greater than the sum of the parts.

**AnaI:** I agree

**MarielleP:** In other words, everyone has something different to contribute.

**BjB** . o O ( another suggestion so you can still see the web window while you read the chat....go to ACTIONS and click on LARGER TEXT )

**BjB:** each teacher seems to find his or her own way to bring in their students and get them actively engaged

**MarielleP:** There seem to be more secondary uses than elementary, however.

**BjB:** I just got a wonderful article from a 2nd grade teacher on how she brought her class in and had them 'create' their classroom

**MarielleP:** To be honest, I think the interface is a bit challenging for younger kids, though not a deal breaker.



**MarielleP:** Great!

**EricaRe:** how did they create their own classroom?

**MarielleP:** I hope she'll join in the discussion here.

**BjB:** I'll be putting the article in the May Tapped In newsletter

**BjB** . o O ( Brooke is the teacher )

**MarielleP:** My middle school students found that navigating the space took some getting used to...

**MariaCho:** create.. do you mean like decorating and putting things on the wall?

**BjB:** a middle school science teacher has his students role play famous scientists using the discussion board

**MarielleP:** But the more explicit you are about orienting them and establishing norms and expectations, the better.

**BjB** . o O ( he had them be reporters for the Daytona 500 )

**MarielleP:** That sounds cool, BJ.

**BjB** agrees with Marielle about norms and expectations

**BjB** . o O ( it also helps that the teacher gets the student transcripts when the student logs out )

**BjB:** two special ed teachers from different schools had their kids read the same book

**MarielleP:** To answer your question, Richard, the whiteboard is just like a classroom whiteboard - its public and everyone can view it and write on it.

**BrendaQ:** was it kind of like role playing?

**BjB:** then the classes got together in the group room and had literature circles

**JenniferCT:** that would be helpful. We have to send our transcripts to our teacher along with a reflection.

**BjB** nods to Brenda

**JaclynC:** literature circles would be great for Tapped In

**BjB:** students have teacher assigned usernames and passwords, Jennifer

**JaclynC:** we do as well

**MarielleP:** Whereas the chat is dynamic - it moves pretty fast.

**BrendaQ:** that's cool

**BjB:** when a student logs in with their username, they land in the student group room

**AnaI:** That sounds like very interesting

**BjB:** . o O ( they are not able to enter any other Tapped In buildings )

**MarielleP:** Yes - key point about the teacher getting the transcript...

**MariaCho:** oh that's interesting

**MarielleP:** Important to impress upon the students, so they know they are being monitored.

**AnaI:** that is very important

**RichardR:** yes it is

**EricaRe:** I think the kids would really like that

**MarielleP:** Some of my students learned that the hard way. Even though I'd told them, it didn't stick until it mattered.

**BjB:** transcripts can also be forwarded to the student to edit

**BjB:** . o O ( or to the parents )

**JaclynC:** right and even their side conversations are recorded as well

**MarielleP:** I also liked my students to view their own transcripts, but I had to forward them to them.

**RichardR:** so their private chats are recorded too?

**JenniferCT:** yes Richard

**MarielleP:** I think there is great potential in having students look back at their conversations and maybe even make use of them in future writing.

**MariaCho:** this might be a dumb question.. but.. what ARE transcripts?

**JaclynC:** yes that makes monitoring even better

**JenniferCT:** If you do not want those sent, you have to edit your transcript

**MarielleP:** Every time you are in TI you get a complete transcript of your chats.

**MariaCho:** yes

**MarielleP:** You'll see when you log off today.

**MariaCho:** ok

**RichardR:** it is basically a copy of your chat sent to you

**BrendaQ:** yeah I got it at my email when I was in a chat yesterday

**MariaCho:** oh ok...

**NormaM:** Same here

**MarielleP:** As for your question, Erica...

**MarielleP:** I used TI as an "interactive portfolio" space with my middle school students.

**MarielleP:** I had students from two different schools post some of their project work and then discuss it with each other.

**JenniferCT:** That sounds like fun.

**AnaI:** yes it does

**MarielleP:** They shared written pieces and visual pieces...

**EricaRe:** wow.. great way of communication

**MariaVa:** wow, neat

**MarielleP:** and then had chats to explain the projects...

**BrendaQ:** that's cool

**BrendaQ:** good way for the students to get ideas and help from other students

**EricaRe:** I think that's cool since older students like computers so much and it is something different from a teacher lecturing

**JenniferCT:** Good reinforcement, having to explain their project to someone else

**MarielleP:** and had async. discussions about each student's work in which they identified where they saw evidence of understanding in the work as well as asking questions that they had.

**BrendaQ:** they can compare results...

**MariaCho:** what a great way engage students....

**NormaM:** This is a great way to keep the lesson interesting!

**MarielleP:** At one school, the project involved taking the persona of a fictional character in ancient Rome with a particular job (e.g., gladiator, jeweler)...

**JaclynC:** Students love working with computers any level

**RichardR:** I agree

**BrendaQ:** yeah they do

**MariaCho:** do you think that even young as 1st grade can do this?

**MarielleP:** and writing a character description, drawing the character, and designing a floor plan of the character's home.

**MarielleP:** The other school had a "French house" project...

**JenniferCT:** That would be so much fun-designing a floor plan

**BjB:** if they just use the asynch features, Maria, and can use invented spelling, first graders can do it

**MarielleP:** in which they created floor plans and scale models of their dream homes designed for a particular region in France...

**MariaVa:** neat

**MariaCho:** that's really cool

**JenniferCT:** yes it is

**MarielleP:** and wrote an essay explaining why the home was suited for that particular region (e.g., design features, materials, etc.)

**JenniferCT:** Fun way for students to learn about a particular region

**MarielleP:** So it was cool to see the kids acting as authors, designers, etc.

**MarielleP:** They took each other's work quite seriously...

**EricaRe:** so what do the students say about the Tapped In?

**MarielleP:** And I think it helped them to realize what they knew, as well as what they weren't fully clear about.

**JaclynC:** students can really influence each other with their responses

**MarielleP:** In what regard, Erica?

**BjB:** I get the impression that they really are engaged in the lessons...but it takes a while for them to get out of Instant Messenger mode

**MariaCho:** yes I agree Jaclyn

**MarielleP:** Yes. Very true, BJ.

**EricaRe:** well I am assuming they really like it. They have positive comments

**MarielleP:** My students had a hard time focusing during the chats.

**RichardR:** Did they grasp the concepts of how to use TI very quickly or did it take awhile?

**AnaI:** What did you do to help them stay focused?

**MarielleP:** The discussion boards were easier to implement, but I think they felt more like writing for school, whereas the chats seemed fun, though hard to follow sometimes.

**MarielleP:** Both, Richard.

**MarielleP:** On one level, they took to it quickly - technically, I'd say.

**MarielleP:** What took a while was learning the rhetoric - how to behave, how to have a productive conversation, etc.

**JaclynC:** is there a certain grade level that TI should be started with?

**JaclynC:** how young is too young?

**MarielleP:** If I'd had them in my own classroom, we would have done much more to build their familiarity with the environment...

**MarielleP:** but the other teachers were not really integrating it elsewhere in the curriculum, so it took a while to get familiar with it.

**MarielleP:** Good question, Jaclyn.

**MarielleP:** I'm not sure how young is too young.

**MarielleP:** I think it depends on how they are using it and how much support you are giving them.

**MariaCho:** do most of the schools feel positive about the concept of students using TI?

**MarielleP:** BJ, do you know more about how the second grade students used it?

**JaclynC:** It just seems that some of the rules and behaviors expected for chats and discussion would be difficult for some students to understand....I wouldn't want to discourage them at an early age from TI all together

**BjB:** just a sec and I'll paste some of Brooke's comments

**MarielleP:** More great questions!

**MarielleP:** I'll get to them one at a time...

**BjB:** they would like to create. The pictures are filled with letters, students, teachers, books, and “nolog”, knowledge. Students begin to tell the teacher that the most important thing in a classroom is the knowledge. The teacher tells the students that she has given them their very own place in cyber space. She explains to them that their new classroom is a place where they can create knowledge together. With the use of Tapped In this second grade class will begin to build and extend their knowledge on a variety of topics throughout the school year.

**MarielleP:** I agree, Jaclyn. I think it could be quite challenging for young kids to navigate on their own.

**MarielleP:** But they haven't done it yet?

**BjB:** The students began to create the look of their learning space. They became invested in their own classroom because they were building it together. Discussion began among the second graders on how to build their new classroom. They designed it like a tree house “because trees grow and so will they”. They built rules and a mission for their “tree

house” and even named it! They were impressed that the teacher even displayed some of their drawings up in their new “tree house”.

**RichardR:** So would you say it would require more support and supervision the younger students are?

**MarielleP:** It sounds as though the teacher was heavily involved with the interface.

**MarielleP:** Which makes sense as a worthwhile way to use it with young kids - they dictate, and the teacher implements.

**MarielleP:** Yes, Richard.

**BjB:** The next learning adventure was to research an endangered animal and write to persuade to help that animal. The students first had to research different endangered animals. They used the featured links that the teacher posted and began to bring in books and magazine articles about different animals. One student even showed the class a streamed video about pandas. The teacher was impressed with their motivation for the project. They wrote in the discussion board about their animals and why they would want to protect them. The teacher uploaded a link of a survey for them to vote on a class animal. When a panda was selected, the teacher put up its picture in their learning tree

**EricaRe:** Is the TI started in the beginning of the year b/c it seems like it would take some work introducing TI to students

**BjB:** The teacher found that the students were very engaged with their project. They liked that fact the room constantly changed each time they visited. The teacher liked how easy it was to change the room. The teacher found adding pictures with captions or to enhance her daily writing prompt kept the children motivated and focused.

**BjB:** Tapped In created a virtual community of learners. The teacher never expected her children to be able to utilize the web based technology or be so motivated about a topic. The children helped build each other’s knowledge and supported each other along the way with their writing and technology knowledge. Tapped In gave elementary students the tools and the foundation to create a community of learners

**MarielleP:** Very interesting.

**JenniferCT:** wow, sounds great

**Anal:** Wow

**JaclynC:** this seems like an awesome lesson

**BjB:** and these were 2nd graders!

**MarielleP:** It sounds as though she really took the time to help them conceptualize the new environment and its unique features.

**MariaVa:** interesting

**RichardR:** Sounds great

**MarielleP:** She conveyed the crux of what such virtual spaces can offer learning...

**BrendaQ:** yeah very engaging

**MarielleP:** which brings me to your question, Richard, regarding the differences between TI and courseware such as WebCT...

**BjB:** our hour is about up. You will find that there is a link to this group room under your favorite places menu so you can come back here any time to read the resources

**MarielleP:** TI is designed to support ongoing communities of practice...

**LisaStr:** It just shows how far kids can take things if the teacher sets up a sound structure.

**MarielleP:** rather than a time-bounded course structure.

**MarielleP:** This is a great question for further discussion...

**BjB . o O (** it was a learning experience for both the teacher and the kids... )

**MarielleP:** as is yours, Ana, about how to organize things.

**BjB . o O (** I only showed you the successful parts )

**MarielleP:** So might I suggest that you post them as discussion threads...

**AnaI:** I will

**MarielleP:** and then we can continue the conversation asynchronously...

**RichardR:** K

**LisaStr:** Thanks for introducing us to Tapped In.

**BrendaQ:** well we got some good ideas so far

**EricaRe:** thanks for the ideas



**RichardR:** Thanks for all the information

**MarielleP:** Great. As I said, there are lots more scattered throughout this room...

**BjB:** Thanks for leading the discussion, Marielle.

**JenniferCT:** Thanks BJ and Marielle

**AnaI:** I really got some good ideas

**MariaVa:** Thanks Marielle

**MarielleP:** That's another advantage of TI over courseware...it's always here...and anyone can contribute.

**AnaI:** Thank you

**MarielleP:** Sure. Thanks very much for your interest and your good questions, everyone.

**MarielleP:** Hope to "see" you around here!