

QR Codes

This short guide will introduce you to QR Codes, share some ways to create a QR Code, and present many ways to use them in your classroom.

Intro to QR Codes

Why use QR Codes in your classroom? Student engagement may only be one reason to use this technology.

What is a QR Code?

A QR Code or Quick Response Code is 2D barcode that is made up of a large square with smaller squares inside. Originally developed by Toyota to help with parts inventory the data stored in these codes can contain many different types of information.



What do I need?

The process of using a code is simple. First, you will need to download a QR Code reader. Both Android and iOS stores have plenty of options available. Search for “QR Code reader” in the app store to see the options. We have had the best luck with the i-nigma app providing consistent positive results. Once you have downloaded a QR Code reader scan the code in the center of this section.

Getting Started

A simple way to connect your students to the wealth of information on the web has always been a challenge. With QR Codes we can now direct students to a specific URL, or even provide a short passage for them to read. The only thing that your students need is a QR Code reader on their mobile device. There are many different QR Code readers, so finding one that you like will not be difficult.

Focus searches and avoid mistyped URLs

The most common use of QR Codes is the ease of directing a student quickly to a URL. With the installed app on the student’s device the code is scanned and the content is available. QR codes are great at any level as they can provide a direct link to websites, which saves time keeping students on task as well as preventing mistyped URLs. Outside of the education realm QR Codes have been used in many different ways. From retailers to real-estate brokers this technology allows almost limitless

possibilities of communication. The use of QR Codes in the classroom are virtually unlimited as well.

Finding a QR Code Reader

Download a QR Code reader for your iOS or Android device. As mentioned earlier we are partial to the i-nigma reader but there are nice features on other apps as well.

Whatever you do, don’t pay for an app! There are plenty of free reader apps available.

Classroom Applications

Teachers have used QR codes to create scavenger hunts, reveal answers to review questions, build interactive word walls, and to provide short reading passages, all with QR codes. Teachers that want to provide extra support for students are posting videos on the web and providing QR codes so students can scan and receive specific help, as needed.

Scan the code below to view the the first two paragraphs of Lincoln’s Gettysburg address.





More on QR Codes



Link to Audio File



Word Wall Example

QR Code Apps

There are many QR code readers available for both the Android and iOS platforms. One of the main things you are looking for is reliability in the scanner. Our experience has shown that the scanner apps below have consistently provided quick and reliable QR code scans.



If you are completely new to QR codes the process is quite simple as shown below.



Find a QR code Scan with app Visit website

Creating QR Codes

To begin creating QR Codes you will have to decide on a QR code generator website. One of my favorites is www.qrstuff.com because it is so easy to use and presents you with many data type options. These options give you an idea of the variety of ways you can use QR codes. In the example that follows we will create a simple QR code that that directs someone to a website.

1. Visit the website that you want your students to view and copy the URL.
2. Go to www.qrstuff.com and paste the URL from step one in the content box shown below.



3. When you added the URL in the step above you may have noticed that the QR code was created automatically on the right side of the screen. If you would like you can change the color of the shapes in code to match your printed material. Then choose the download button to download your newly created QR code to your computer.



4. Now you have a QR code as an image on your computer. Now you can print the code and allow students to interact with your content.

Creating Multiple QR Codes

As you begin to realize how many ways you can use the technology in your

classroom, you will find yourself wanting to create many QR codes and the previous example can be very time-consuming. Never fear, someone has created a website that will let you create up to 100 QR codes at a time. Once you have all of your information together visit <http://www.qrexplre.com/generate/> and enter your content. Your QR codes will be created and then available as a .zip download.

More Resources on QR Codes

There will always be new information and teachers sharing how they have used QR codes in the classroom. Once you have a QR code reader installed on your mobile device explore the codes at the top of this page. These examples show some of the ways that QR codes can be used in your classroom. The following QR code will give you a place to start when looking at ideas to engage your students with this technology.



<http://www.schrockguide.net/qr-codes-in-the-classroom.html>