



Tech Hub News

Helping Adults Thrive in a Changing World

Upcoming Tech PD Events

For details and registration, go to
[RI Adult Ed Calendar](#)

Apply Now! Google Educator Level 1 Certification

The Tech Hub is recruiting a cohort of adult education practitioners to participate in the Google Educator Fundamentals Training, including evaluating and contributing materials specific to adult education.

The cohort will be organized as a Learning Circle. Learning Circles are a model of blended learning where participants do part of the online training together, in person. Members of the cohort will facilitate discussions around topics covered in the course before and after the online portion. The peer-to-peer support is a key element in helping participants evaluate and contribute materials for adult education. Apply and learn more at <http://bit.ly/Geducate>

Monthly Meetups - Google User Group

This is an informal support group to guide your journey in using G-Suite tools. Come in with a question, a concern or just to learn more. Each month a different topic is covered. April 9, 2:30-4pm; May 4, 9-10:30am; June 1, 9-10:30am. Contact Kim Libby at support@riadulted.org.

Individual Program Coaching

Coaches are available to assist teachers with tech-related needs such as learning to use devices, getting started with Google classroom or lesson planning with technology integration. We offer coaching 1:1, small and large groups - at no charge of course! Contact Sherry Lehane at slehane@provlib.org

Why all the fuss about G-Suite?

G-Suite for Education, formerly known as Google Apps for Education, is a package of cloud-based tools that allows teachers and students to easily collaborate, communicate, create, and share. All you need is a computer, tablet or smart phone and a web browser. Among the many benefits are: adult educators in Rhode Island can seamlessly share lesson plans and resources, and students can have ONE email account that allows them to join a google classroom in any adult ed agency in RI and access their work, anytime, anywhere. G-Suite tools include google classroom, sites, documents, slide presentations, calendars, note taking app and much more.

G-Suite applications can help jump start your journey in using technology for teaching and learning and help you work more efficiently. Students will reap the benefits of gaining skills needed for employment including collaborating and communicating with online tools.

Get started by creating a [Riadulted.org](http://riadulted.org) account. Your account enables you, among other things, to join the RIAdult Ed Google Support Classroom where we post announcements for upcoming events and share resources. This is a unique space for adult educators to collaborate and we'd love for you to join. Contact Kim Libby or Sue Grundy at support@riadulted.org for more information.

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What's been happening?

To stay connected with Tech PD Events, join the Google Support Classroom by sending a request to support@riadulted.org.



Google Classroom In-Action/Mobile Learning

On January 26th, Benjamin Miller, Bonnie Taylor, Marie Crecco-Romero, Myrta Ventura, and Chris Bourret shared some concrete examples of using Google Classroom to extend learning, foster collaboration, support student accountability, provide professional development for staff and transition students to higher ed programs. Chris Bourret shared ideas for using mobile learning for formative assessment. He demonstrated the use of some very cool tools and methods of using these tools with mobile learning. Thank you again to our presenters!

If you'd like to see a training offered in your region of the state, let us know by contacting Sherry Lehane at slehane@riadulted.org.

Stay Connected

1. Join the RIAdultEd Google Support Classroom by sending a request to support@riadulted.org
2. Go to www.riadulted.org. Check out Tech Hub pages
3. Subscribe to this newsletter by contacting Sherry Lehane at slehane@provlib.org or slehane@riadulted.org



A Mutual Learning Experience: Joining K-12 and Adult Educators

On February 20, 21, RISTE sponsored a fabulous 2-day training event where teachers working in K-12 shared how they use various tools for teaching and learning. Participants commented on how much they enjoyed learning from our K-12 counterparts.

Adult educators who participated in the training learned how to use Google Keep to take notes, Google docs in some very creative ways, Hyperdocs, Calendar, app, extensions, gamify formative assessment and more. The blend of break-out sessions and 1:1 help gave participants an opportunity to learn and then experiment with the support of experts.

The K-12 teachers also learned a lot about adult ed from us! Thank you to Chris Allen, Tracey Kareemo, Jennifer Simoneau and Sarah Godino for sharing your expertise and to Kim Libby, Sue Grundy and John Bilotta for organizing the event.

RISTE will be holding another 2-day Institute in the summer. For more information, go to <https://www.ri-iste.org/>.



News from Northstar!

Northstar is updating all nine assessment modules. For the next 6 months, adult educators are field testing each of the updated modules and offering feedback.

Here's what you can expect:

- Updated images
- Clearer user instructions
- Same basic content with updates including tablet and smartphone screens information

When all modules are ready for launching, you will see the new modules on the public and agency sites.

Call for Resources



What are your favorite online resources?

Do you have a lesson plan you'd like to share?

Teachers and volunteer tutors are in search of good resources. We'll post resources on www.riadulted.org website. If it's a lesson plan, we'll add it to the RI Adult Ed Classroom. If you need help in converting a lesson plan to a pdf or Google doc, contact Sherry Lehane. You can add your resources at this link: <https://goo.gl/CKbh1V> (Also in page 5: Tech in Practice)



Benefits of RISTE Membership

RISTE, the Rhode Island affiliate of the International Society of Technology Educators (ISTE), is a not-for-profit organization. Their mission is to provide technology leadership, support and training to the educational community as well as promote innovative practices.

John Bilotta, the Executive Director of RISTE, is part of the Tech Hub team. John has been instrumental in creating and maintaining the RIadulted domain and leads many of the training initiatives for the Tech Hub. We are grateful for his expertise and guidance.

RISTE has a large menu of quality professional development opportunities for educators. Their diverse offerings range from half-day to multi-day trainings and are a great opportunity to learn from other educators. RISTE membership is open to all Rhode Island public, private-independent, religious schools, and all adult educators. Individuals can join for free or join with a premium membership of \$25.00/year.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.ri-iste.org/>.

The Tech Hub Team

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Contact us:

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Tech In Practice: Using Facebook as a Teaching Tool



Jon Lavieri, RIFLI Teacher

Jon Lavieri, a RIFLI teacher, has been using **closed** Facebook groups for the last few years to deliver information, announcements and create content for his learners, and help establish an online community where information is shared and reflected on meaningfully by students.

Jon uses the groups to relay information, for example class cancellations and upcoming guest speakers, while students can use the space to write back to Jon and classmates to explain an upcoming absence, to ask a question, or share a photo or event. Since it is a closed group, with only members of the group able to see each other's posts, students can express themselves in writing without worrying about a wider audience looking at their syntax, spelling etc.

Update! CCR1 speaker is coming to you March 29. 😊

Hi Jon Lavieri, I won't be able to come to class today 😞

Seen by +7

Jon also uses the Facebook groups to post short writing assignments for homework. With the beginning level students, Jon uses student pictures for question prompts, so students can write back words, phrases or simple sentences at the beginner level. The prompts are usually taken from what happened in the last class as seen in the example below.

Search in Speaking Upside Down

ABOUT DISCUSSION FILES PHOTOS EVEN

RECENT ACTIVITY

Jon Lavieri
Wed at 10:27 PM •

Auburn students especially, but everyone is welcome to comment as always: What do you call the item in front of the mouse? Do you think this mouse looks intelligent or crazy?

👍 😊 2 6 Comments • Seen by +28

👍 Like 💬 Comment

OLDER

Mouse trap. The mouse look very intelligent 🤖

He is hungry and eager to eat this cheese 😊

It's very smart 😂

HAHA 😂 yes Diana Right 😂😂😂😂😂

In his advanced classes, Jon uses prompts from the classroom discussion and topic that any student can write about, whether or not they were in class that day. In the example at the right, Jon reviews what the class did and introduces the writing prompt, and finishes his post with a sample based on his own experience that students can use as a model for their writing. Below right, students respond.

Interesting to note is the positive feedback and reinforcement in the comments come not only from Jon, but from other students too, which is evidence of a community of learners who are comfortable with each other in class and in the online group. Jon has reported a huge increase in written responses from students using Facebook groups, both at the beginning and advanced levels of his classes, than if students were using paper and pen in class. Moreover, the students' comments are written outside of class time, no surprise since Jon's prompts are quite fun and meaningful to what has happened in class or meaningful to students' lives. The use of student pictures (from Jon or the students), used in a closed and comfortable setting for learners, is often a big hit for writing. In all, it doesn't feel like homework, but in reality what the students do is, and the responses are all saved for Jon to use for informal assessments on how students are using language to communicate.

John currently has three separate groups. Each one covers a different range of levels. A few of the students are participating in more than one.

Thank you Jon for sharing!

How do you use technology?

Contribute to Tech in-practice and share your ideas or story by clicking on the link below:
<https://goo.gl/CKbh1V>



Jon Lavieri ▸ Liquid English



Mon at 1:50 PM •

We were talking in class last week about writing our own contributor's note as if we were writers contributing work to an anthology, just the way Sandra Cisneros talks about in her essay, *Only Daughter*. The contributor's note is like a mini biography, only to say a few important things about the person with a few sentences. Cisneros talks about the different ways she could have written hers. Now it's our turn. I'll start with an example of what mine would be like, and then all of you who have a few minutes can post your own in the comment section. Let me know if you want any help or comments on what you write. Ok, here goes:

I'm the youngest son in an Italian-American family of three sons and four daughters. Only one of my sisters is younger than I. I grew up in the country where I spent a lot of time alone when I was a boy, and had so much opportunity to let my imagination keep me

I am the only child of a Single Venezuelan Mother. Since she had to work all day i had to live with my grandparents, they were the only company that i had. I spent my spare time between classes reading my grandparent's books. My great-grandfather was a writer, and i hope to be one aswell, I'm sure it would make him proud
 I started writing rhymes and poems when i was 12, and i'm hoping that, with practice, i could someday be good enough to write my own book

2d Like Reply 3