

*This section highlights some useful learning and teaching websites that can help with planning, teaching and professional development.*

## Future Me

<http://www.futureme.org>

FutureMe.org is a website that will send an email from you to yourself at a specified future date. Over 2.5 million email letters have been submitted; return dates range from days to years and even decades into the future. Some writers pen themselves notes of encouragement; others congratulate or berate

their future selves for goals they may or may not have attained. Other emails serve as reminders, or simply provide memories for reflection.

For the educator, the site provides for a practical and beneficial first week's homework assignment in reflection and goal setting. Students can be asked to write a letter explaining who and where they currently are and to brainstorm and plan for their futures. Return dates set toward the end of semester provide a timely reminder of one's goals just before final examinations; most students will have forgotten all about this first day's assignment until the emails are received in their inboxes. This is also an opportune time to suggest further reflection and re-strategizing for the future. For a real surprise, suggest that students pen themselves a letter not to be returned until graduation day!

The screenshot shows the FutureMe.org website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Write a Letter to the Future', 'Read Public Letters', 'What?', and 'Props'. Below the tabs, the heading reads 'What do you want to say to your future self?'. The form includes fields for 'E-mail Address' (with a placeholder 'Your e-mail'), 'Subject' (with a placeholder 'A letter from May 6th, 2013'), and a large text area for 'Your Letter' (with a placeholder 'Dear FutureMe,'). At the bottom of the form, there are dropdown menus for 'Deliver on:' (set to 'May 7 2014') and radio buttons for 'Make this letter:' (with 'Private' selected and 'Public (but anonymous)' as an option).

Dear FutureMe,  
Dear me,

I will get above a 3.5 on my next report card. I will achieve this by doing at the very minimum of two hours of homework every night. The plan is to turn my phone off during this time and stop listening to music during homework time. Also try to get right on my homework after dance class and stay up till all hours if it is not complete. I shall not procrastinate and do things the moment I get a chance. This is my first goal...

# World Voices

<http://woices.com>

World Voices at Woices.com is a website designed for user creation and sharing of geolocalized audio guides. Since 2008, Woices has collected audio guides for worldwide locales ranging from neighborhood streets and popular local venues to famous landmarks and tourist sites. The guides are narrated and uploaded individually by people from around the world and in many languages. Because apps are available for both Apple and Android systems, and the Woices site provides a mobile interface for other users, the internet-connected public can both create and listen to on-the-spot audio guides from virtually anywhere.

From an educator's perspective, the website provides a modern and constructive platform in which to engage learners in exercising their academic skills while serving

the community in an experiential and novel way. Choosing a site and a theme, conducting research, taking and organizing notes, and planning and expressing content for the audio guide become motivating pedagogical endeavors in the context of an international community service project.

Site-specific guides or "echoes" can be grouped into "walks" to describe and explain sites of interest ranging from local restaurant fare to famous tourist spots. Students can be tasked with envisioning and organizing guides according to their knowledge, skills and research interests. Whatever the theme, the creators of these guides enjoy multiple opportunities to engage academically in a practical yet stimulating and worthwhile project, and in the process to add their personal voices to the world community.

## Bao Gong Lake -- Cici Cao

Created by [Seven\\_](#) in English at 2.6 km of Kaifeng, Henan Sheng (China) 11 months ago  
Listened 10 times



### Explore



34° 47' 35.26" N 114° 20' 5.21" E



# LiveBinders

<http://www.livebinders.com/>

Livebinders.com is the 21st century electronic version of the three-ring binder. The site allows the storage, organization and display of documents, images, video, web links and screenshots. The free basic membership provides for the uploading of up to 100 MB of electronic data. Paid packages for private, commercial and educational use deliver even more capacity. In the educational context, the site is popularly employed to organize and share the content of specific classes, create student portfolios and serve as professional resource libraries.

Educators assemble electronic notebooks to present class content in a traditional and customary manner, with notebook tabs announcing sections, and pages available visually just as they are in a physical notebook; the difference and advantage with a Livebinder

is that the notebook content can be accessed virtually, eliminating the need for a physical presence, and with the added advantage of allowing for live links to pertinent websites, as well as the ability to embed audio and video content into the notebook. Ready-made portfolio templates provide a stage for students to collect and share examples of their accomplishments in multiple subject areas, to display and share project work and to reflect on learning. Binders can be made public or private, and organized onto “shelves”. There are currently over 1000 public binders categorized into scores of searchable subject areas and levels. These public collections thus serve concurrently as a valuable resource library for internet-connected schools around the world.

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