

# LEARN NC

## Turbocharge Your Teaching: INSTRUCTIFY

### TIME FOR A CHANGE

The idea of students passively absorbing information doesn't work anymore. Students are bored because the factory model looks nothing like the technological landscape they live in. Teachers are frustrated because education has been so one-sided their entire lives. As an instructor, how do you bridge that gap?

### INSTRUCTIFY

*Instructify* is a new blog from LEARN NC where teachers can stock their toolboxes with practical, time-saving classroom ideas and cutting edge methods of instruction. It's where to find useful, free technology to use in the classroom. And it's a fun place to spend your planning period.

To instructify means finding new ways to present the same old content. Or MacGyvering anything from software to sticky notes into something you can teach with.

### PRACTICAL TOOLS

*Instructify* spotlights tools such as Calc5, a free online graphing calculator for advanced math classes. For elementary teachers, *Instructify* recommends resources like Ben's Guide to Government for Kids, where Benjamin Franklin introduces young learners to the workings of the U.S. government. Whether you're looking for a faster, more accurate way for your English students to cite their sources on research papers, or if you've got some bright ideas you'd like to share with the rest of the class, *Instructify* is the place for you.

### BEST PRACTICES

Weekly "Instructifeatures" provide advice on how to use Web 2.0 technology to accomplish a specific classroom goal. Want to jump start class discussion? Integrating online discussion forums into your face-to-face class can help shy students speak up electronically. How about making sure your students know how to separate good information from bad? *Instructify* can show you criteria for evaluating online info.

Don't just teach. *Instructify!* [Log on now to www.instructify.com](http://www.instructify.com)

The screenshot shows the Instructify blog interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'ABOUT', 'ARCHIVES', and 'CONTACT' links, and a search box. The main content area features a post titled 'Make Fun Science Projects by Reading Comics: Howtoons' dated October 25, 2007. The post includes a quote from a user: "Wait a minute," you're thinking. "Isn't... uh... the public library the public's library?" and a cartoon illustration of a girl with a gun, saying "COME OUT AND PLAY! I'VE IMPROVED MY SHOOTER A LITTLE...". The post text discusses educational comic books and 'Howtoons'. Below the post, there are links for 'Howtoons via Instructables' and 'Related Stuff: The Water Rocket Index'. At the bottom, there are social media links for 'Permalink', 'Digg This Story', and 'Comments', along with tags: 'school projects, elementary, science, tutorials'. On the left side of the screenshot, there's a sidebar with a stack of books icon, an 'RSS Feed' link, and a 'Recent Entries' section listing various articles like 'Clean Up Pixelated Pictures with VectorMagic' and 'Ditch Microsoft Office: OpenOffice Provides a Free Office Suite'.

