This year the National Writing Project (NWP) launched a new effort, Digital Is, with the support of The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, to create and disseminate resources, products, and opportunities for educators in digital media and learning.

**Background**
The NWP is a professional development network serving teachers across disciplines and at all levels, early childhood through university. With support from the U.S. Department of Education, NWP is the nation’s leading coordinated effort to improve writing and literacy. The NWP has built a national improvement infrastructure that includes local writing project sites at more than 200 colleges and universities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These NWP sites provide professional development programs for nearly 100,000 educators per year.

**Early Focus on Technology to Improve Writing and Learning**
Because of the profound impact of technology on writing and publishing across all media, the NWP established an early focus on digital media and learning. For more than 15 years, NWP teachers have re-imagined, reformulated, and refined their teaching practices to adapt the teaching of writing to the digital age and to translate their work into meaningful professional development for their colleagues. As new media, microblogging, and social networking enter students’ lives, NWP teachers strive to harness technology to help all young learners become meaningful creators of content.

**Building Professional Learning Resources for Educators**
The NWP model for leadership development in technology—where leading teachers are supported in developing technology expertise in their own classrooms—enabled NWP sites over the past four years to expand the cadre of Teacher-Leaders, create new classroom-tested practices, produce more programs on using technology for teaching, and reach more participants. (For details, see *Keeping the Promise of the 21st Century*, Inverness Research Policy Brief, 2009.)

Professional development for teachers is critical if they are to use technology skillfully to teach their content area and to engage and motivate all students. The most significant work ahead is not in hardware and software or even in basic training related to it, but rather in providing deep and sustained professional development that will allow the 7.2 million educators in the U.S.—early childhood through post-secondary—to re-envision their teaching for the 21st century.

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To see this work in action, please visit the links on the back page.
For more information about the National Writing Project, visit www.nwp.org

What does it look like in classrooms when teachers use digital media to improve student writing and learning? Here are examples:

**Literacy, ELL, and Digital Storytelling: 21st Century Learning in Action, Life Academy, Oakland**
Bay Area Writing Project teachers Yumi Matsui and Clifford Lee teach digital media in their Oakland, California high school classroom:  
http://www.youtube.com/user/NatlWritingProject

**The Change Writers Project – Student Perspective and Voice Thread**
Elementary school teachers use multimedia tools to enhance standards-based history lessons in Elk Grove, California:  

**Teachers Network: Successful Teaching Practices in the Classroom**
Teachers and students blog to extend their writing curriculum in a New York City high school:  

**More than 6,500 Students Write to the 2008 Presidential Candidates through Letters to the Next President Website**
Students from across the country collaborate to post their views on the issues relevant to the 2008 Presidential Election through a website sponsored by Google and the NWP:  