

# Free Teacher Productivity Tools

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# What are we going to cover today?

- A Work Phone Number
- Social Bookmarking
- Link Shortening
- Classroom Blogs

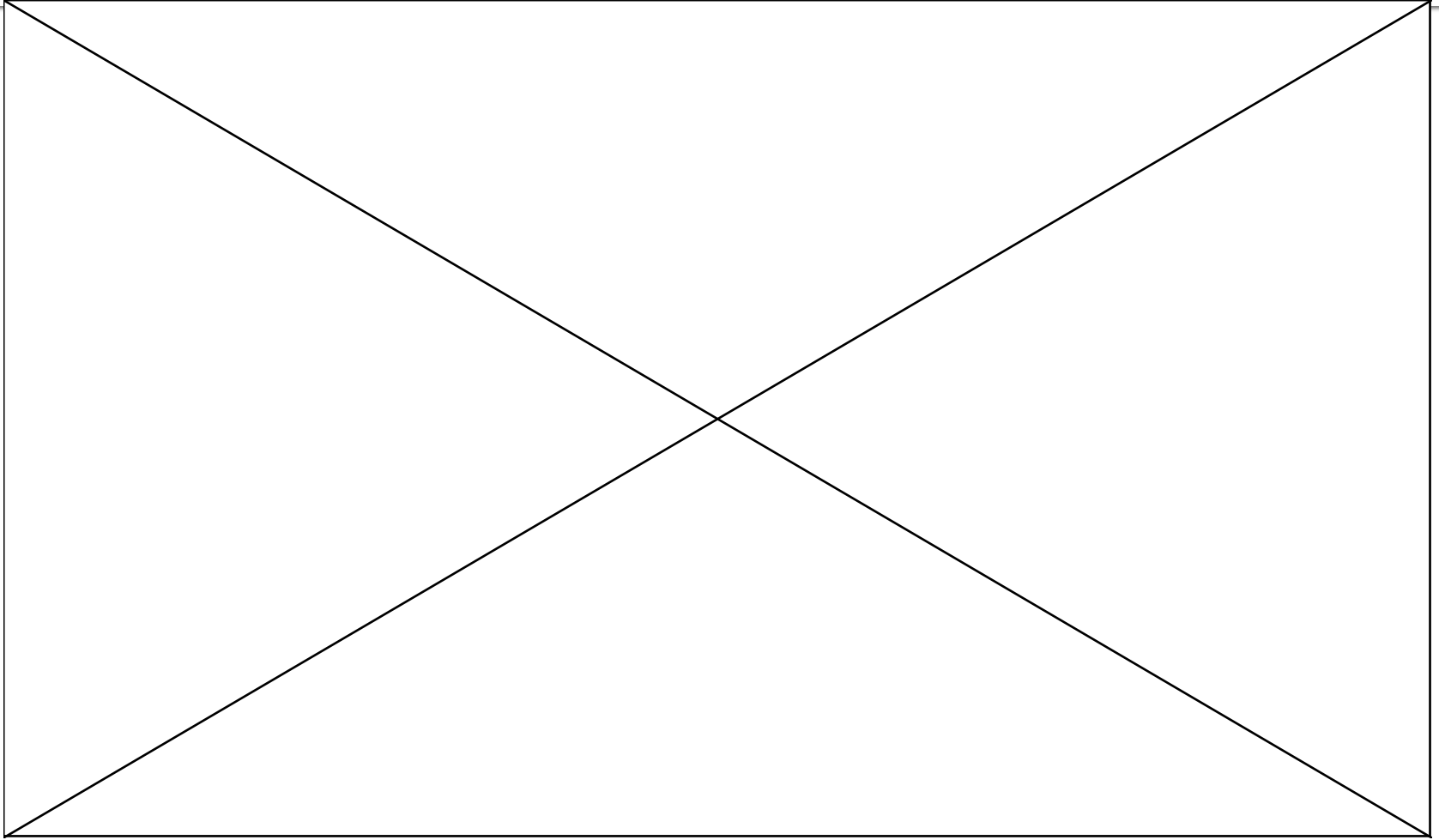
# Why should I use these services?

- All of them are free!
  - There are alternatives out there but I have found these ones to be the best of the best.
- Increased communication with students and parents.
- Students enjoy using these services.
- Increased technology integration will help with student engagement.

# A Work Only Phone Number



# What is Google Voice?



<http://goo.gl/OICUh>

# Why Google Voice?

- Give students/parents your phone number without having to use your personal number
- Make phone calls and send free text messages from your computer or cell phone
- Every conversation is stored, transcribed, and easily searchable online
- Ability to conference call with up to 4 people at once.

# How to use Google Voice in education

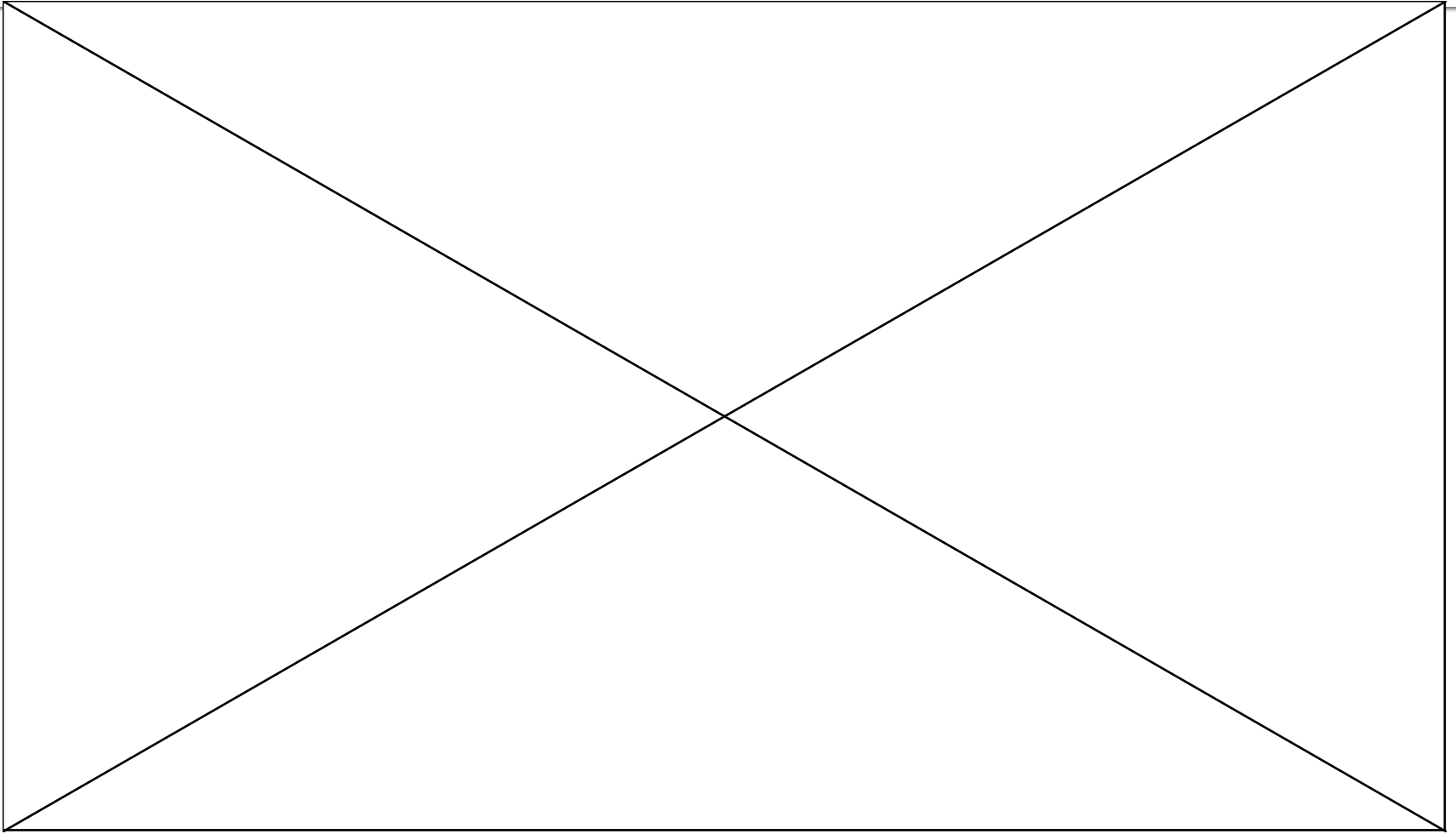
- A daily voicemail greeting that explains the homework for that night
- Students can text your Google Voice number to ask for help on homework
- Parents can directly call your Google Voice number to set up appointments
- Have students call the number and record oral presentations. Google voice will save the voice mail in an mp3 format

# Social Bookmarking

diigo



# What is Social Bookmarking?



<http://goo.gl/iXtd6>

# Why Diigo?

- The ability to access your bookmarks online from any internet equipped device
- You can highlight portions of a website much like we used to highlight books
- Ability to place sticky notes on websites

# How to use Diigo in education

- Quick way to share information and websites that you find online
- Teachers can set up a list of preapproved sites that can be used by students to research information
- Connect with teachers who have already compiled great resources and lesson plans
- Allow students to use sticky notes and highlights for online research

# Link Shortening

The image shows the Google logo in its characteristic multi-colored font. The letters are 'G', 'O', 'O', 'G', 'L', and 'E', each in a different color (blue, red, yellow, blue, red, and green respectively). The logo is set against a white background.

# What is Link Shortening?

- Gives people the ability to condense long URLs into shorter chunks.
- Similar to bit.ly, t.co, tinyurl.com, etc.



# Why Goo.gl?

- Included with the Google Apps suite
- Google Analytics allows you to track # of hits
- Simple and easy to use

# How to use Goo.gl in education

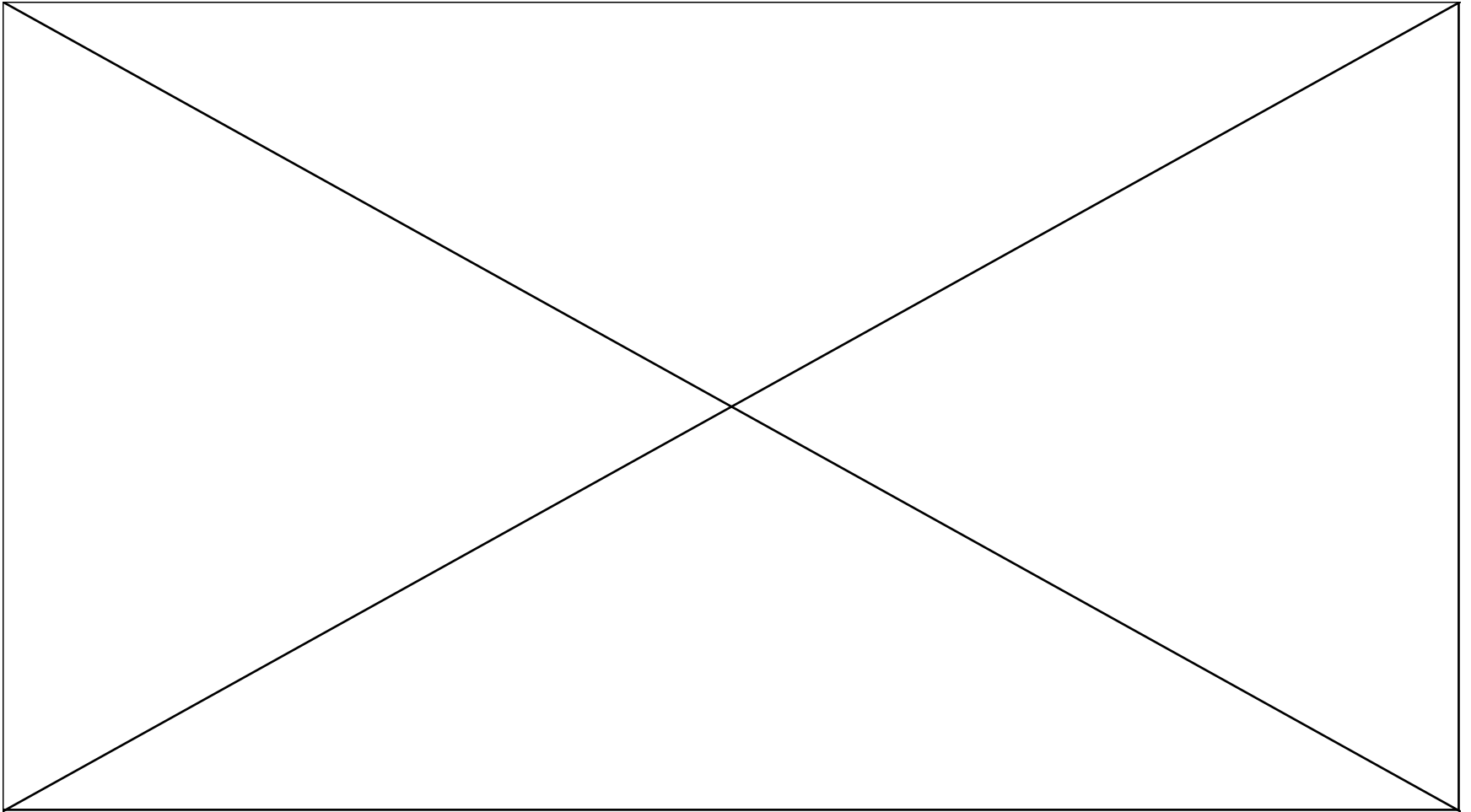
- Quickly share links to web articles with students and teachers
- Track the number of times a link has been clicked on
- Have the students create shortened links and QR codes to their digital portfolios
- Be careful. Goo.Gl is case sensitive. One wrong upper or lower case letter and you could be sent to the wrong website.

# Blogging





# What is Blogging?



<http://goo.gl/dXOrU>

# Why edublogs.org?

- No ads!
- School safe content
- Edublogs gives you the ability to moderate comments
- No sign up needed for students to reply to posts
- Free 20 mbs of online picture, file, and video storage

# How to use Edublogs in education

- Share information and pictures with students and parents in a blog post
- Have students create online discussion
- Have students submit links to online assignments
- Share links for daily assignments
- Create a class newsletter
- Student Journals

**Any Questions?**