

# Communicate with Cartography: Using Online Portfolios in Secondary Geography

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## Sample Prompts:

*AP Human Geography Portfolios* – [www.cartography101.weebly.com](http://www.cartography101.weebly.com)

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Global Studies Unit* – [www.coldwarportfolios.weebly.com](http://www.coldwarportfolios.weebly.com)

## General Tips:

- Experiment on your own to determine best software for your students.
- Create a model site to display your prompts so students have a general starting point
- Give students guidelines, but give them ownership of their own site
- You are using technology – remember the “hiccups” can be teachable moments



[www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com)

- Extremely user-friendly
- Easy to format, embed images and videos
- Sometimes tough to format text
  - Indenting challenges
- May have issues with your school filter



<http://sites.google.com>

- Connected to other Google Apps
  - Same log-in for Gmail or Google Drive
- Relatively user-friendly
- Awkward and clunky at times
- Lacks aesthetic appeal
- Less fluid than Weebly



[www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)

- Excellent for blogs or writing intensive portfolios
- Widely used platform with lots of opportunities to adapt with plug-ins
- Need to manage comments availability
- Can be cumbersome to learn at first



[www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)

- Excellent for writing intensive portfolios
- Best platform for multiple forms of hardware
  - PC, tablet, phone applications
- Not as flexible for images and videos
- Designed for shorter writing

## GIS Platforms



[www.projections.mgis.psu.edu](http://www.projections.mgis.psu.edu)

- Good opportunity for 1<sup>st</sup> project
- Compares different map projections for a given grid of latitude and longitude
- Explain to students  $49^{\circ} 30' = 49.5^{\circ}$
- West and South are programmed as negative numbers



<http://factfinder2.census.gov>

- Provides broad access to US Census data
- Good to explain choropleth maps, and works in conjunction with Mark Monmonier's "How to Lie With Maps"
- Will require more teacher guidance to get find data the site can map.



- ESRI is the leading GIS software among professionals
- Access to a wide variety of geospatial data that can be retrieved
- Teachers may apply for a free community account which would allow students to share and collaborate on maps
- Students are slower to adapt to this platform than others, but I can't understand why!



[www.batchgeo.com](http://www.batchgeo.com)

- Offers a spreadsheet template to plot multiple locations on a map
- Color codes locations by group
- Limited adaptability in free version, and the spreadsheet can be tedious



[www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com)

- Students always excited for Google Earth!
- Google Earth Tours allow students to create a visual story.
- Some slower computers may struggle to render the graphics
- Some students struggle saving and uploading KMZ files.

<http://www.arcgis.com>



*Thanks for coming, and  
feel free to e-mail me  
questions:  
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