



Think's Links!

Illinois Thinkfinity Project Newsletter

Ready – Set – Go

Are you ready for the new school year? No! To help you get ready, the Center for Workforce Development is offering 2 workshops on Thinkfinity and Integrating Electronic Resources into the Classroom. Both focus on the use of Thinkfinity resources to enhance learning and meet learning standards. These workshops are in Springfield and are limited to 20 participants. Sign up today for a place in one of these exciting workshops.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>
August 9, 2011	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 6 CPDU's	What's new with Thinkfinity?? This workshop is an overview of the new "stuff" brought to you by the Verizon Foundation and by the Subject Matter Partners. Be the first to know about the new State Standards Search and more. Fee \$12.00/person payable at the door. Registration Fee includes: materials, coffee, breakfast bars, and box lunches.
August 12, 2011	1:00 – 4:00 p.m. 3 CPDU's	Integrating Electronic Resources into the Classroom. This workshop is all about using the Thinkfinity Internet Integration Plan to assist instructors to successfully integrate internet resources into the classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss all of the considerations that must be addressed in order for internet resources to be used successfully the classroom. Fed \$5.00/person payable at the door. Registration Fee includes: materials and a cookie break.

Both workshops will be held at the SIU Center for Workforce Development located on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL. To register send an e-mail to dpotts@cwd.siu.edu or call 800-252-4822 x233. For driving directions go to: <http://cwd.siu.edu/about-travel.php>.

Did you know?

How Blended Learning Benefits Students, Teachers

SmartBrief on EdTech

July 12, 2011

Blending online learning and traditional classroom lessons benefit teachers and students, suggests Tom Vander Ark, CEO of Open Education Solutions. He writes that blended learning supports personalized lessons, motivates students, focuses on deeper learning, allows for longer school days and years, provides better student-achievement data and allows for more teacher collaboration. [The Huffington Post](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-vander-ark/10-reasons-teachers-love-b_894222.html) (7/11) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-vander-ark/10-reasons-teachers-love-b_894222.html

Why Technology Won't Replace Teachers

SmartBrief on EdTech

July 5, 2011

While technology can enhance teaching, it will never replace teachers, says instructional coach David Ginsburg. He notes that speakers during the recent International Society for Technology in Education conference focused on the human side of instruction, as well as the digital tools that enhance lessons. Ginsburg writes that speakers suggested qualities such as empathy and the interaction between teachers and students are essential to learning. [Education Week Teacher/Coach G's Teaching Tips blog](http://tinyc.cc/p58aj) (7/2) <http://tinyc.cc/p58aj>

News from Thinkfinity

Thinkfinity at the Top of Free Online Resources! Flipping through Facebook posts, we got a welcome surprise: On June 3, 2011 Edutopia posted that their community members recommended Thinkfinity.org as one of the [top websites for free online classroom resources!](#) (The listings didn't appear to be ranked, but we we're still tickled to be at the very top of the list, and in some outstanding company, including some of our content partner sites.)

Here's how Edutopia put it: *"We all know that teachers are always looking for tools, references, and resources for classrooms. Well, here are 80 "must see" free, and paid websites recommended by Edutopia community members. Keep this list in your back pocket! It might come in handy."*

Engaging Educators in the Thinkfinity Community

This [free 45-minute webinar](#) provides best practices for trainers to introduce the Thinkfinity Community. Three sessions listed for July. <http://tiny.cc/afss2>

Check it Out at Thinkfinity.org

New Lesson Plans

Explore hundreds of standards-based lesson plans developed by our [Content Partners](#) – the leading education organizations in the country.

[The Blog of Anne Frank?: Taking on Social Roles through Online Writing](#)

Grades 7-10 | Language Arts

[Musical Harlem](#)

Grades K-4 | Arts

[History on Stage Pop-Up Lesson](#)

Grades 5-8 | American History

[See All New Resources](#) | [See Most Popular Resources](#) | [Browse All Lessons](#)

STEM

Bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math into your cross-curricular classroom.

[Favorite STEM Resources](#) - Thinkfinity Community Discussion

[Sink or Float?](#)

Grades K-2 | Science

[Geometric Solids and Their Properties](#)

Grades 3-5 | Mathematics

[Giant Story Problems: Reading Comprehension through Math Problem-Solving](#)

Grades 1-2 | Reading and Mathematics

[Invention at Play](#)

Grades K-5 | Engineering

21st Century Skills

Preparing for Tomorrow - Inspire creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication so students are ready for tomorrow's world.

[Ozone Fill-Up](#)

Grades 3-12 | Podcast

[Science Meets Artistry: The Work of Cai Guo-Qiang](#)

Grades 9-12 | Lesson Plan

[The Ten-Minute Play: Encouraging Original Response to Challenging Texts](#)

Grades 9-12 | Lesson Plan

[Doodles, Drafts and Designs](#)

Grades 3-12 | Interactive



Hurry up now -- sign up for one of the Thinkfinity Workshops today.

Verizon Thinkfinity is an online portal with thousands of free resources available to educators.

For more information on Verizon Thinkfinity
Contact Debbie Potts, Illinois Thinkfinity State Education Partner
Southern Illinois University Center for Workforce Development
dpotts@cwd.siu.edu or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 233

