



## Every Word Cloud Has a Silver Lining!

Most word clouds work on the premise that the more times a word is used, the larger it appears in the word cloud. So, how and when should you use Word Clouds in the classroom?

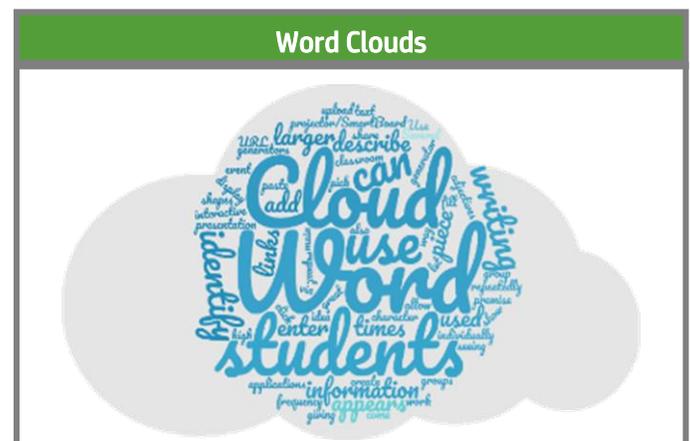
1. As a group, use a Word Cloud generator to enter in words students come up with to describe a character or an event. If students repeat words, add them in. The more times you enter a word, the larger the word appears in the word cloud.
2. Students can pick shapes and fill them with adjectives that describe them.
3. Some Word Cloud generators let you add links to some of the words. This could be a great interactive way to share information. Students (individually or in groups) could create a word cloud and display it via a projector/SmartBoard. As they are giving their presentation, they can click on the links to show more information.
4. Use Word Clouds to identify high frequency words in a piece of writing. Several Word Cloud applications allow students to upload text or paste a URL. Students can use this to identify the main idea of a piece of writing (by seeing which words are used the most). Students can also use this to identify what words, in their own writing, they use repeatedly.

### How-To:

1. Enter Text
  - a. Type or copy and paste text
  - b. Upload file
  - c. Copy and Paste URL
2. Choose shape, colors, font
3. Adjust word frequency (usually appears as a number after each word in the word list)
4. Download picture file.

### Word Cloud Generators:

- Tagcrowd.com- Can copy and paste text, upload file, or enter URL. Can't customize shape.
- AbcYa Word Cloud: (is also available as an app for iPad) \*Good for younger students. Not very customizable.  
[http://www.abcya.com/word\\_clouds.htm?utm\\_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm\\_source=%2Fthe-8-best-free-word-cloud-creation-tools-for-teachers&utm\\_medium=link](http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm?utm_campaign=elearningindustry.com&utm_source=%2Fthe-8-best-free-word-cloud-creation-tools-for-teachers&utm_medium=link)
- Tagul: <https://wordart.com/>- Choose your own shape (Can be used on Chromebooks)
- Tagxedo-lots of flexibility (like TagCrowd and Tagul/Word Art combined) but have to install SilverLight to use. (Won't work on Chromebooks or iPads.)
- <http://www.wordclouds.com/> - can have clickable links inside the word cloud. Can customize shape, upload text, and add hyperlinks to words in the word cloud (in the Word List). Can be used on PC, Mac, Tablet or Smartphone.
- Wordle- <http://www.wordle.net/> One of the original word cloud apps. Can't customize shape or upload files. \*Requires JAVA to run –won't work well in Chrome Browser or Chromebooks.



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**Sources:**

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