

English Scenario

A community college has a modest computer lab consisting of 14 networked Macintosh SE computers and one LaserWriter. This public access lab is used by students from all over the campus for a variety of purposes.

The lab is located in the English building, and one enterprising T.A. uses it between 2:00 and 3:00 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for his creative writing lab. He's come up with some imaginative ideas for what to do in the lab, but he doesn't know which of the many software packages can help him.

Here's what he'd like to do. He wants students to be able to do freewriting exercises. He also wants students to be able to edit each other's work. Peer review is something he thinks is very important. For example, he wants students to be able to pick up work-in-process from the public folder and offer editorial suggestions.

In addition, he wants students to be able to mix graphics and words to create their stories. It would be great, too, if he could show a writer's work on a large screen as he analyzes the writing in it.

The class is made up of a mix of age groups, and most are computer literate.