English and Communication Around the World in Education

By Megan Wood
What is the English and Communication Around the World in Education Project?

• A substitute for studying abroad
• A way to connect around the world
• Networking
• A teaching tool
• Friends of different cultures
How did it start?

• Study abroad
• Cost
• Epals
What is Epals?

• Classroom connection tool
• First student teacher on Epals
• Emails – Student to Student
  Student to Teacher
  Classroom to Classroom
Poland: The Beginning

• Started with Polish teacher
• Facebook page
• On to different countries: Poland, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Indonesia, India, Turkey, Ghana, Germany, France, Australia, Russia, and a home school group in Kentucky.
Poland, Brazil, and Italy

- Communication with teachers
- Communication with students
- Emails, instant messages, skyping sessions, Facebook messages and video chat, handwritten letters, videos, and pictures
- Curriculum presentation with teachers
- Practicing English, genuine conversation with native English speakers, learning about what school is like in other cultures
All Other Countries Involved

• Curriculum talk
  – Presentation to students
  – Differences with the United States Education System
  – U.S. college versus high school in other cultures
Things I learned

• Teaching is universal, process of teaching is very much specific to different cultures

• Technical schools
  – Ex. Italy dental school: Not a technical school, but is specialized
  – Learn skill and can continue with skill, go to college, or get a job
Things I Learned (cont.)

• Learn by doing – genuine conversation, writing letters, using English to advance knowledge about other cultures and students of their age and other ages.

• How to collaborate, close and far in distance

• Other teaching strategies

• Having fun while learning from others and teaching others