

App Evaluation for Teaching and Learning

App Evaluation Checklist

- Meets your needs (e.g., the use of the app is relevant to the learning objectives).
- The current version of the app has a good rating in the App Store (3 stars or better) or other App Review Resource (see below).
- The majority of user reviews are positive.
- Help or a tutorial is available within the app.
- Has a support website or online community of users.
- Content, including advertising, is appropriate.
- Information is error-free, factual, and reliable.
- Content can be exported, copied, printed, or otherwise shared.
- Settings and/or content can be customized.
- Easy to use.
- Works with accessibility options.
- Appropriate cost (i.e., meets your budget).
- No in-app purchases are required to use the app as intended.
- Has been updated recently.
- Promotes creativity and imagination.
- Provides opportunities to use higher order thinking skills (e.g., analysis, creation).
- Promotes collaboration and idea sharing.
- Provides useful feedback.

App Review Resources

- **Rubric for App Evaluation** - The [Educational App Evaluation Rubric](http://learninginhand.com) by Tony Vincent of <http://learninginhand.com>
- **AppAdvice** – Magazine format with guides to apps with similar features <http://appadvice.com/appnn>
- **AppZapp** – shows prices and price history. You can set up notifications for when app prices change or go free <http://appzapp.us/index.html>
- **AppShopper** – Similar to AppZapp <http://appshopper.com/ipad/>
- **Apple App Store/Google Play**

Educational App Blogs

- **Free Technology for Teachers** - Provides app reviews in addition to ideas on how to use those apps in education: [Free Technology for Teachers](#) and the [iPad Apps for School](#) blog.
- **teaching with technology** - Offers resources for teaching with web-based tools: [teaching with technology](#) blog.
- **Tech & Learning** - Up-to-date news and resources for using technology in education. The App of the Day blog is a quick way of learning about new apps on a consistent basis: [Tech & Learning](#) website and the [App of the Day](#) blog.

Try out the checklist!

1. Think of an activity that would use a mobile device. It could be of personal interest or related to an upcoming course.
2. Use the websites in the App Review Resource section of this sheet to help you find possible apps and/or search the app stores for possible app solutions.
3. Once you have chosen a few likely candidates, review the App Evaluation Checklist
4. Does the app meet the majority of the criteria in the check list?
5. Be prepared to share your experience, ask questions, or share observations in a group discussion.

Checklist Sources:

http://teacheroftech.wikispaces.com/file/view/Research_article_How_to_Evaluate_Apps.pdf

<http://learninginhand.com/blog/ways-to-evaluate-educational-apps.html>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/94980508/iPad-App-Evaluation-for-the-Classroom>