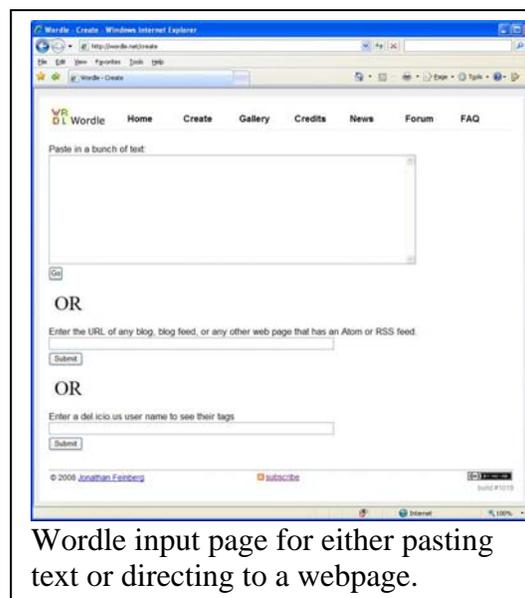


Tool	Website	Cloud Max Words	Input		
			Paste text	Upload file	Link to webpage
TagCrowd	http://tagcrowd.com/	Varies with input text			
Wordle	http://wordle.net/	User set			
ToCloud	http://www.tocloud.com/	User set			
Tag Cloud Generator	http://www.tagcloud-generator.com/	30			
Amazon Concordance	Amazon.com's feature Inside This Book	100			

My favorite cloud tool is Wordle, created by Jonathan Feinberg, and is a great online service for generating “word clouds” from text that can be either pasted in or linked from a web page. One of the really nice things about Wordle is that it not only creates the word cloud, but it also puts an artistic slant to it create word cloud art, allowing choices for font structure and word placement design or shape of the completed word cloud. Wordle even has a randomize button to allow users to press and see different design views of their word cloud. With your word cloud created, users can edit the shape, word orientation, select from over thirty font type, choose the color pallet, and arrange the words alphabetically or not. Wordle, like a number of the other cloud creators, uses a remove list which automatically eliminates common words from the word cloud. With Wordle though, users can remove even more by selecting word in the cloud by right-clicking and then choosing the Remove option or use the “~” symbol to connect two or more words together as a phrase.



sheets for large display using a projector or even to place them up as window art. Print out the word cloud onto special shrink-plastic sheets (remember Shrinky-Dinks) and then make word cloud key chains or zipper pulls (don't forget to punch holes before baking or you will need a drill). Another fun activity would be to use iron-on transfer sheets and then make your own t-shirt based on one of your favorite books or the book that is being read in class. Most of the word cloud resources allow for direct printing of the cloud, but do not allow users to save the cloud as an image on their computer. To save the created cloud the image usually needs to be copied using a screen capture process.

Using Wordle

1. Write or find some text, like a book, chapter, article, or essay.
2. Select all of the text and then copy it to the clipboard.
3. Go to Wordle (<http://wordle.net>).
4. Click on Create your own.
5. Paste the text.
6. **Either** use a screen capture program (see below) to obtain the Wordle word cloud as a graphic **Or** save the Wordle in the public gallery and use the code provided in your blog or web page.

Steps for copying Word Cloud to print out for poster or handout:

Windows: With the window displaying your word cloud being active (the bar at the top is on or the window is in front), pressing both the **Alt** key and the **PrintScreen** key (**Alt-PrtScrn**) places an image of into the clipboard memory. Pressing **PrintScreen** by itself places an image of the entire desktop on the clipboard. Then you can paste the word cloud image into image editing software, such as Paint or Photoshop Express, or you can paste it into a document, like Word.

Mac: Press three keys together the **Apple and Shift-4** and then use the mouse to drag a box around the cloud you want to save or use **Apple and Shift-4** and then the **Spacebar** to capture the whole window. Once you release the mouse button you should get a screenshot image in PNG format on your desktop. Add pressing the **Control** key to the two shortcuts above to place the screen shot on the clipboard instead of saving it to the desktop

Take some time to play with a word cloud generator and see what you can create for yourself and your students. These clouds add a new way to look at a text's content and can be a great tool for learning.

fragments formed Helens lava active surface Hot Mount crater flows rocks magma large deep cone rock water
Eruptions gases vent feet Volcanoes above Earths Volcanic miles ash Volcano eruption scientists

Short word cloud made with a Tag Cloud Generator from the nonfiction text Volcanoes from the USGS (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/volc/text.html>)

So, how might Wordle be used in an educational context? I would suggest the following 5 ways:

- As a means of summarizing the content of an essay or other piece of work. This provides a very useful means of telling you what the article is about.

"What about a summary at the beginning?", you say? Well, fair enough, but not all of us think in terms of bullet points, and nor do we always need to. Wordle provides an alternative possible approach.

- Wordle is handy for self-reflection. One of the hazards of essay writing is that students can get carried away, and go off the point completely, or contradict themselves.
- In the same way, Wordle can be used by the teacher as a means of assessment. Ask a pupil to create a Wordle of her presentation, and use **that** as the basis for a discussion, rather than the presentation itself. The beauty of this approach is that you don't get bogged down in the minutiae, and end up losing sight of the forest through concentrating on the trees.
- Wordle is also good for summarizing survey results where the survey uses free text fields.
- illustrate one's work with a picture of some kind, and a Wordle is just as good a way as any to break up the text a bit! – multiple intelligence

More ideas and images at:

http://docs.google.com/TeamPresent?id=dhn2vcv5_157dpbsg9c5&ncl=true&skipauth=true