

Ning in the classroom

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Ning (<http://ning.com>) is an online service that offers users complete control over their own private or public social networks. Administrators have complete control over their networks which can contain blogs, photos, videos, and several other modules.

You can have students collaborate on projects, comment on each other's blog posts, as well as create photo tours. You can read more about how Ning can be used in the classroom at the Ning in Education Ning: <http://education.ning.com/>.

Ning recently discontinued its free account offering. In response to a large cry from educators for a free version, Pearson came forward and will pay the membership fee for educator accounts. To receive your free Ning mini account:

- 1) Go to [Ning.com](http://ning.com), click on "Get Started Now", and sign up for a Mini account. During sign up you will have to enter in billing information. Once you successfully sign up for the Pearson's coverage (step 2), your recurring bill payment will be cancelled.
- 2) Go to <http://about.ning.com/pearsonsponsorship/> and sign up for Pearson's sponsorship.
- 3) Wait to get an email from Pearson. The process usually takes 1-3 days. If you are granted sponsorship, you will need to invite their education account to your Ning. This account is used to make sure your Ning is being used for educational purposes.

Important Points:

- 1) If you are going to use your Ning for classroom use, make sure you set it to private when you initially create your Ning. If you did not do this during your account creation, you can always change it to private whenever you want.
- 2) When you invite members to join your private Ning, remind the people you invite NOT to withdraw their request to be added. The last screen they will see when they complete their request to join your Ning has a link at the end of the paragraph saying "Click here to withdraw your request." At this point they just need to wait to receive an email from Ning saying you have accepted their request to join. If they do withdraw their request, you will have to invite them again.
- 3) The Ning online support center is located at <http://help.ning.com/>.