Fast Facts

Summer reading programs
The following are the 2008 summer reading choices for selected college programs:

Source: Individual institution’s Web sites.

Teens, tech, and writing
About two-thirds of teens report that they incorporate informal styles from their text-based Internet communications into their writing at school. Fifty percent of teens say they sometimes use informal writing styles instead of proper capitalization and punctuation in their school assignments. Thirty-eight percent say they have used text shortcuts in school work, such as “OMG” and “LOL.”


Wiki-Britannica
Encyclopaedia Britannica is adopting a modified Wikipedia model, allowing anyone to submit contributions. To distinguish the effort from Wikipedia, Britannica will continue to incorporate the active involvement of the expert contributors with whom they already have relationships. All contributions to Encyclopaedia Britannica’s core content will continue to be checked and vetted by expert editorial staff before they’re published. “In this way we aim to leverage the power of the Internet to integrate the work of many people in a common project and on a large scale, but without relinquishing the editorial oversight that makes Britannica’s content trustworthy.”


E-mail and Internet privacy
Forty-one percent of large U.S. corporations (those with 20,000 or more employees) reported that they employ staff to read or otherwise analyze the contents of outbound e-mail. Eleven percent of U.S. companies surveyed disciplined employees for improper use of blogs or message boards in the past 12 months.