

TECH TIMES

Technology News You Can Use

November 28, 2011



Good Monday everyone! Welcome back from Thanksgiving. I hope everyone had a blessed holiday with lots of family and friends around them. This week I wanted to share some ideas for integrating technology into your everyday reading lessons. Many of you have expressed a need for ideas that can be used to meet the technology component of the new evaluation model.

ALTERNATIVE AUDIENCES

Research has shown that students produce higher quality work when they know their product will be viewed by an audience other than their classmates or teachers. Finding a new audience is easier than you may think.

1. Have students share work samples, letters, stories, or any other writing with students in another class, school, or even another country. <http://bconnex.net/~kidworld/keypals4.htm> and www.epals.com are two great web sites that allow students to share their work with others around the world.
2. Let your students create animated stories, summaries, discussions, interviews and so on using www.goanimate.com and www.xtranormal.com. The finished product can be uploaded to student-safe sites and shared with family and friends.
3. Make your student a movie star. Create a podcast of student-created stories, summaries of stories, newscasts, interviews, or any other written work. Podcasts can be shared on www.teachertube.com or posted to the school's website.
4. Allow students to collaborate and share written work with others using docs.google.com or www.zoho.com. Both are easy to use and student friendly.
5. Students can create electronic dictionaries or other vocabulary related content using programs such as PowerPoint or Keynote. doc.google.com and www.zoho.com also offer free web-based presentation creation. The truly advanced students should give www.prezi.com
6. The SMARTBoard allows students to manipulate words and sentences. Sequencing and other skill-related activities can be raised to a new level by allowing students to create and interact with SMARTBoard lessons. Visit exchange.smarttech.com for ready-made lessons that encourage student interaction. Parents and friends can view student SMARTBoard activities using <http://express.smarttech.com/>. The site is free to anyone with internet access.
7. Videoconferencing is a great way to collaborate and share students work with other teachers and students across the district. All schools are equipped with Polycom devices that allow classroom to classroom audio and video conferencing.
8. Many of you have iPads. Allow the students to produce written content using the free Notes app that comes standard on the iPad. The notes can be printed or emailed for sharing with others.
9. For the tech savvy among you, www.edmodo.com provides an excellent and safe platform for collaborating and sharing with students and colleagues.

a try. These presentations can then be uploaded to sites such as www.teachertube.com, www.authorstream.com, or the school web site.

Cool iPad App of the Week:
Any and all of the Fotopedia
apps

