

Minnesota Writing Project

--- Demonstration Lesson ---

Title of lesson: Using VoiceThread to Publish Student Writing

Suggested grade/age: Appropriate across all grade levels.

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: Varies on class size and what you are doing.

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:

- Students will use VoiceThread to transform media into collaborative spaces with video, voice and text commenting.
- With VoiceThread, group conversations are collected and shared in one place from anywhere in the world. All with no software to install.

Brief summary/outline of lesson:

Here is a snap-shot of the unit that I used it with, although it can be used with any unit of study that you are teaching.

- To publish my 1st and 2nd graders non-fiction animal reports.
- We start this unit in December each year and work on it through February.
- The students then present the finished project at our “Celebration of Learning” to their parents.
- I email the link home and post-it on my website for parents to re-visit and share with others.
- We start in December and work until February.
- Students learn:
 - The elements of a fiction book. (Book tools)
 - How to locate the a non-fiction book in our library
 - Using non-fiction books, encyclopedias, and internet search engines to locate the answers to the 3 essential questions:
 - What does my animal look like?
 - Where does my animal live?
 - What does my animal eat?
 - Interesting facts
- How to take notes.
- How to write a non-fiction report on an animal.
- Learn/practice writing in complete sentences.
- 1st Draft and Conference
- 2nd Draft-Final Draft
- Fluency-we read, read, read and then read them some more...

How do you turn your student’s published work into a VoiceThread?

- Click [here](#) for a short tutorial. (If the link does not work, go to UTube and there are many short ones you can view.)

Or just learn by playing...

- Go to Voicethread.com
- Create an account.
- Click create.

- Upload photos.
- Record.
- Share.
- [My Class Project](#)

Related Resources:

If you go to voicethread.com and click on 'browse' you can view hundreds of different projects created by students and teachers. There are endless ways to use this free software in your classroom and I highly recommend it.

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

I strongly recommend using this with students who have special needs.

I found that working with VoiceThread was a valuable tool for my students with special needs. I have two students in my class who are selectively mute, two who are LD in reading and of those two, one who has speech goals written into his IEP. Using VoiceThread gave my students who do not like to talk in front of the class and my students who struggle with reading, an opportunity to read aloud and be heard by their peers. They loved it and were eager to do it again.

For additional information, contact: Kristin Davis, 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher
kridavis@edina.k12.mn.us