

Digital Storytelling for Low-Achieving Students

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Essential Question:

How can teachers adapt Digital Storytelling for LD, MN, or unmotivated students?

Digital Storytelling (Lambert)

- Point (of View)
- Dramatic Question
- Economy
- Emotional Content
- Soundtrack
- Gift of your Voice
- Pacing

“Traditional” Steps in DST

- Find your story (group sharing)
- Draft, revise story (utilize appropriate elements)
- Select and “prepare” images
- Storyboard
- Create the movie...(Digital editing software)

Create the movie

- Drop pix (USE STILLs)
- Record voice over
- Sync voice to pix
- Incorporate soundtrack
- Add transitions
- Decide on effects
- Render and burn

General Adaptations

Break it down...don't water it down.

- Familiarize students with concepts
- Sequence and assess ALL steps
- Narrow focus of story and elements
- Reduce time of finished product
- Simplify editing process
- *Accommodate according to IEP

Familiarize students with concepts

- Use terminology prior to project
- Read short stories looking for elements
- Teach visual literacy
- Practice reading aloud
- View many examples of DS, identifying elements (pro, adult, student)

Sequence and assess ALL steps

- Start as a writing or storytelling assignment
- Draft
- Peer revision
- Images
- Storyboard
 - Paper/pencil, Powerpoint, “homemade” template
- Voice over (small chunks)
- Stages in editing

Narrow focus of story and elements

- Limit topics to avoid confusion:
 - A “best friend” story
 - A proud moment
 - Sports story*
 - When you learned something
- Pick 1-2 elements
 - Point
 - Dramatic question
 - Economy
 - Emotional content

Reduce time of finished product

- 1 paragraph
- 5 pictures
- 1 minute

Or whatever it takes...
You know your students

Simplify editing process

- PHOTOSTORY 3!!!
- Limit:
 - Effects (zoom, pan, etc)
 - Transitions (fade, dissolve, cut)

Accommodate according to IEP

- This may include:
 - Assisting with technology
 - Limiting scope
 - Reducing or eliminating voice over
 - Prompting

Remember...

Never sacrifice the process or
integrity of DST.

A “slide show” is not a
Digital Story

Why Digital Storytelling?

- Adaptable to student ability and subject
- Performance assessment (P.B.L.)
- Wide variety of assessment possibilities
- Multiple intelligences
- Student ownership
- Student motivation

CREATES A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT!

What are the obstacles?

- Time
- Technology
- Training
- “Selectively abandon”
- Studio 9, iMovie, Premier (\$), Movie Maker (Win XP) Photo Story 3
- CALL ME!

I am available for workshops, in-service for:

- Digital storytelling: art and craft
- Software training: *Pinnacle Studio 9™*
- Digital inquiry
- Adapting DST/ DI to low-achieving students