

Building Bridgit Classrooms

What is Bridgit: A collaborative software package used to connect SmartBoards. It enables students of all ages to interact in a conferencing environment, sharing voice, video and data. Students and faculty are able to connect with peers across town and around the world, working in real time on the same project.

How it works: The “server” sets-up the conference and as a “participant” you just need to click through an e-mail invitation. Now you are connected and can view the “servers” desktop, write on the desktop for notes, highlight information. You can even share your webcam and view other participants’ webcams. For security, the conference can be password-protected.

Technical Information: For all of the system requirements and costs check out the Smart Tech website <<http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Products/Bridgit/>>

Pros: The participating students in our district all enjoyed the interaction with other students from different schools. The students loved the interactive ability, the camaraderie it built in their class, being exposed to different ideas and opinions, seeing different view points as well as the fostering of friendships. An added bonus is the great speaking skills the students showed.

Cons: Have patience and humor, as with any new technology there can and will be glitches. It can be time consuming to have to stop and take each others computers over during presentations and learn to share. However, this is quickly learned.

Things We Have Already Tried:

- ◆ Read the same book
- ◆ Share a common topic with different assignments
 - * We shared assignments on the topic of propaganda
- ◆ Brainstorm characteristics from a novel
 - * We shared Holocaust survivor characteristics
- ◆ Simulations
 - * We shared 20 lbs of belongings with the students taking turns being the Gestapo