

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - Power Point

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

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MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

MichaelH: We have an interesting topic tonight... something I hope you can take with you to use in your own classroom (a little software strategy session tonight)...

MichaelH: but, before we start, let's take a few minutes and introduce ourselves... who we are, what we teach, where we're located, etc.

LindseyPW: Lindsey Wood 1st grade Houston Texas

HerschelS: I teach us history and GIS in Los Angeles

PatriciGst4: I'm Patricia, a high school special ed teacher in Mass

DouglasRM: Doug Moore, preservice teacher, university of Houston, Texas

RamiaF: pre-service teacher UH

MichaelH is a social studies teacher and independent curriculum consultant in southwestern Indiana

JeffC is helpdesk here.

LindseyPW: I'm actually a preservice teacher that is in 1st grade right now

MichaelH: looks to Cathy and BJ....

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a social studies groupie

MichaelH: Anyway, tonight's topic is a bit different than some of the ones we might have discussed in the past...

MichaelH: we tended to highlight resources that you could use for lessons.

MichaelH: Tonight, we'll focus on developing lessons and getting material "across" to your students through a fairly common software program you probably already have on your classroom computer.

MichaelH: That software is Microsoft Power Point

MichaelH wonders how many of you have/use Power Point?

JeffC never heard of it

DouglasRM: I have

PatriciGst4: I have

RamiaF: I have

LindseyPW: I use it a lot it is great

Herschels: It's my main teaching tool

MichaelH: Ok, do you all mind if I ask HOW you are using it?

CathyAB: I have

Herschels: I use it for instruction and have the students make up ppt's as a culminating task

DouglasRM: to make lessons for my courses

MichaelH: for example, are you using it for student projects, or are you using it as a way to give students notes?

LindseyPW: to introduce lessons/ because you can add pictures and music.

CathyAB: I use it to create digital stories for my social studies classes

PatriciGst4: it is effective for giving students daily notes

MichaelH: It sounds like you all have similar types of goals in regard to using PP....

MichaelH: how are you projecting your slides?

MichaelH: video projector? Television output?

DouglasRM: projector

LindseyPW: projection

Herschels: I was an lcd but I've used a tv and a large 37" monitor

MichaelH wishes he had a projector... we use scan converters and each classroom has a 25" tv monitor. Not big enough for much display

BJB2: not very high tech, but I print out ppt slides on overhead transparencies

Herschels: I also use it on individual student workstations

BJB2 . o O (allows for a larger image)

MichaelH: we also didn't have much say in where the tv was located, and so it's right under a bank of fluorescent lights. So, when the lights are ON, there's a lot of glare on the screen

MichaelH: and you shouldn't turn the lights off.

MichaelH: I imagine making transparencies gets pretty pricey, BJ...

BJB2 . o O (not as expensive as an LCD projector)

MichaelH: That's true too... I don't know why we weren't farsighted enough to get projectors for each classroom, or at least have more than one or two in the buildings

MichaelH: Is anyone using it as a tool for student instruction, in terms of having THEM develop projects?

DouglasRM: I am a student, so not quite yet....

RamiaF: same here

LindseyPW: I have before with 4th graders and they loved it

MichaelH: what did you do, Lindsey?

CathyAB: I recently created a PP presentation and at the end gave students instructions to create their own PP to assess their knowledge

BJB2 wonders if Doug and Ramia had to make ppt as a class assignment?

Herschels: I'm assigning students WW II topics right now so when I get to a certain point, battle, leader etc. the student doing that ppt will step right in and enrich the lesson

DouglasRM: yes

RamiaF: yes

LindseyPW: they had to research an event in Texas history and then had to present it using pp

MichaelH: That sounds cool, Lindsey!

CathyAB: I'm in class with Doug and Ramia and the answer is yes!

MichaelH: Herschel, I've got a web based resource I can send you after the session with a lot of World War II links if you want it...

Herschels: yes, thanks

MichaelH: remind me if I forget...

MichaelH: ok, I'm going to pick on my U of H people tonight, then...

Herschels: forget what?

MichaelH: to send you the web page

Herschels: weak joke

MichaelH: let's say I'm a student in one of your classes... what should you expect from me if you assign me to do a ppt?

MichaelH: in other words, what sorts of requirements do you make for students as far as what they must do in a presentation?

MichaelH: . o O (I at least SMILED when Herschel said that... :)))

MichaelH: what I am suggesting is tell me about what sorts of things you require of your students in a pp presentation.

LindseyPW: should have graphics/ clear facts that are easy to read. PP should not contain lengthy essays just short points

DouglasRM: some research, maybe a little wordart and some clipart

Herschels: I model for them, at times they have to do a 20 to 40 slides in an in-depth analysis other times 10 slides to make a point

CathyAB: We've always been taught in technology that when it comes to pp, less is more.

RamiaF: organized and not too much per slide

Herschels: my ppt's are from 100 to 250 slides

DouglasRM: WOW!!!

MichaelH: these are all good suggestions. One thing I would suggest is as Herschel mentions... a certain number of slides, some clear cut requirements as to what you expect the kids to do

CathyAB: You must have GT students!

Herschels: I give them a sort of rubric, items they have to have to get a good grade

MichaelH: Exactly!

CathyAB: Giving students a hard copy of a rubric would be helpful

MichaelH: Herschel, you're welcome to chime in with some projects you've done with your kids, and I'm going to show some we've done on the grade school, middle school, and high school levels.

Herschels: I teach in a hard core inner city high school in South Central L.A.>

MichaelH: Which one of you mentioned one on Texas State History?

LindseyPW: me

MichaelH: would you like to see what your compatriots in fourth grade Indiana history are doing?

LindseyPW: that would be great

CathyAB: Sounds great!

RamiaF: sure!

DouglasRM: me too

Herschels: why not

MichaelH: here's a project that a fourth grade teacher I worked with did last year

MichaelH: click on the link, and you'll go to the page...

MichaelH: you can even look at the Power Points the kids did

MichaelH: but take just a second, we'll have more resources to show...

BJB2 . o O (if you have a pop up blocker, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard)

MichaelH: here's the link... you'll see it open in a separate browser window... as BJ mentioned, mind the pop-up blockers

MichaelH: <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/tcr/indiana.htm>

CathyAB: click on it now?

MichaelH: go ahead, Cathy

MichaelH reminds everyone that all the links will be in the transcript you get tonight.

LindseyPW: I like how you showed them how to do a pp

DouglasRM: I think I will take a closer look at it later...

DouglasRM: but it looks cool so far

Herschels: 4th graders???

MichaelH: Lindsey, feel free to adapt anything here you want...

MichaelH: yep

LindseyPW: thanks there is lots of good things on that link

BridgetM joined the room.

CathyAB: What I saw looks great but I'll look at it more closely later. You must have a great deal of tech resources in your school?!

MichaelH: if you click on the links at the bottom of the page, you can either download the PPTs to your computer, or if you are using a newer version of IE, you can actually view them in IE.

MichaelH . o O (if you have PP on your computer)

MichaelH: Cathy, believe it or not, this lab was really backwards... really slow computers, and we had to network to the classroom teacher's workstation in order to save (all the computers used Deep Freeze)

CathyAB: I'm impressed!

MichaelH: those computers were all Pentium 1s, or Celerons.

Herschels: one great thing about ppt it will work on almost any computer

DouglasRM: that is amazing

MichaelH: This was this teacher's first foray into technology

CathyAB: Have you heard about Picture Story3 to create PP's?

MichaelH: they've upgraded the lab at that school since last year, but there are still some major issues we have to deal with there

LindseyPW: I think pp is really easy to learn and grow with even if you are not familiar with it

MichaelH: no, Cathy, do you use it?

MichaelH: is that similar to HyperStudio?

CathyAB: I recently saw a demo on it. You can actually download it for free. It's soooo much easier than PP.

MichaelH: Also, some of those kids would qualify as "special needs". It's a school in a lower income area of town. We're a small town of about 19,000

MichaelH: There were some things I would have liked to have done differently with this group... we didn't storyboard, which we should have..

CathyAB: I bet the kids were really proud of it!

MichaelH: I think they were/are. The neat thing about doing this as a web-based project as well as PP is that it's there in perpetuity... the kids can see it years and years from now

DouglasRM: I remember in my first tech class, I was scared to death of pp. I had only seen my wife work with it when she was in college. Once I started using it, though, I love it and find it very user friendly

MichaelH: A lot of these same kids are now doing web pages on US Presidents, and they will be up and running in a few days

CathyAB: I recently read that students learn 400% more through visualization..

Herschels: it's easy, once you get into it, to get carried away with all the fancy fly-ins etc. I tell my students not to use them.

MichaelH: I don't find people having too many problems with PP

DouglasRM: there is such a thing as too much

MichaelH: Right, Herschel. And, the other issue with that, is that if you have different versions of PP, the visuals, animations, etc., won't work correctly, or won't work at all

CathyAB: We call that PP on steroids!

BridgetM: Michael - can you post link to site again?

Herschels: I try ant tell my kids to make each slide a stand alone "poster", visually appealing and filled with information

MichaelH: sure, it's at <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/tcr/indiana.htm>

MichaelH: ready to look at an example of a similar MIDDLE school project?

MichaelH: this one is grade 8

CathyAB: sure

RamiaF: ready

DouglasRM: yep

MichaelH: again, this is one from last year...

MichaelH: there's a resource page for the project for this year, but the teacher and I are still working on getting individual class pages up as well as the PPTs on the web pages for download

MichaelH: here it is:

MichaelH: <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/tcr/liberty/>

MichaelH: this was an American Revolution project in which the students did PPTs on some facet of the war or the fight for independence. Some guy the class knew did the lessons for the PBS re-broadcast of "Liberty" last spring.

Herschels: and that guy was????

DouglasRM: very cool!

MichaelH: oh, geez, Herschel, I'm not sure

CathyAB: Again, I'm impressed.

RamiaF: looks interesting, will check out more later

Herschels: I am sure

MichaelH: in all seriousness, if anyone would like to talk to the lesson developer, I can bring him in after this session...

MichaelH: maybe I should take a minute and ask you all something....

MichaelH: I don't know how many of you are middle school educators, and I know a couple of you are elementary educators...

MichaelH: what sorts of things would you CHANGE based on what you've seen in the two examples I've shown you this evening?

MichaelH: in other words, what do you NOT like...

MichaelH: any weaknesses?

CathyAB: I really think that for their first try the students and teacher did great! Each time you do a PP there is dramatic improvement. Also when you're dealing with a group of kids there has to be a lot of compromise about effects, etc.

MichaelH: I think you are right, Cathy.

MariaAR: Hi everyone! I'm an elementary teacher, May I join in?

MichaelH: I would like to have seen a bit more alignment with standards

MichaelH: sure, Maria, come on and join us

LindseyPW: I really like both examples and feel they are well done and have all the necessary parts. However, being a elementary teacher I would really have to bring those examples down in order for them to work for me

MichaelH: and sometimes I think we use PP for the sake of PP rather than using it as a teaching tool

DouglasRM: I think they are both good uses of technology that get the information across quite well

MariaAR: What are you guys talking about? What does PP stand for?

Herschels: Hmmmm, not me It's a great teaching tool that holds students interests and allows one to hit all the "learning modalities"

CathyAB: Lindsey, there's a whole lot you can do in elementary with clip art in your PP

MichaelH: the Revolutionary War projects you're looking at were shown to the school board this time last year; and someone made a point that the "kids learned a lot about Power Point, too". I don't know about that... as a social studies teacher, I want the kids to learn the subject matter

MichaelH: . o O (PP= Power Point)

MichaelH: let's just say our technology curriculum facilitator had to bite his tongue really hard when that point was made

Herschels: I could not get to the rev war ppt, could you post it again?

MichaelH: sure, Herschel, it's at <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/tcr/liberty/>

CathyAB: I would use pp or any technology as an enhancement to the content only..

MichaelH: The new resource page is at <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/clark/liberty>

DouglasRM: I agree with that, Michael, that we use it to use it. the trick is to use technology when it is warranted, but not just for technology's sake.

MichaelH: there are no presentations there yet, but there will be soon.

MichaelH: Again, this was done (the middle school projects) in a lab that was really low-level technology (all Pentium II computers)

Herschels: I've built my courses around ppt as the main teaching and learning vehicle, it takes work but once you've done it you have a powerful teaching tool, careful planning and attention to the standards serves one well here

CathyAB: It's real hard, when you first learn this technology, not to overuse it

DouglasRM: exactly, Cathy

MichaelH: I think MY biggest problem with PP, when I am using it as a teaching tool for notes, etc is that I need to make the font size larger

MichaelH: especially on a 25" tv monitor in the classroom

Herschels: I teach completely with technology having thrown out the textbook years ago, my students could not read it anyway (for the most part)

MichaelH: I've heard of that happening with other teachers/schools, Herschel. And with the cost of textbooks today... it's probably very cost efficient the way you do it

DouglasRM: I sometimes put too much information on a slide, and it ends up shrinking the text

MichaelH: ok, you've seen middle school and elementary school, want to see high school?

DouglasRM: yes

LindseyPW: sure

BridgetM: sure

RamiaF: yes

Herschels: I would be happy to assist anyone who is interested in creating ppt lessons

CathyAB: yes

DouglasRM: I appreciate it, Herschel

MichaelH: Herschel, you might want to give these folks some contact information if you'd like them to contact you via e-mail about your offer

Herschels: sure, hsarnoff@gmail.com or hsarnoff@lausd.k12.ca.us

CathyAB: Thanks Herschel...

MichaelH: reminds all that e-mail addresses are in the transcript, too

MichaelH: here's an example of a high school project.

MichaelH: it involves ninth grade AND 12th grade

MichaelH: the ninth grade kids did web pages using Netscape Composer (at that time, Netscape GOLD)

MichaelH: the 12th grade kids did Power Point

MichaelH: here's the link

MariaAR: as an elementary teacher I have not used power point presentations and because I teach 1st grade they would not be able to do it themselves.

MichaelH: you might be surprised, Maria...

MichaelH: have you ever heard of KidPix?

CathyAB: Maria, you'd be surprised!

MichaelH: <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutch/modpres/mainpage.htm>

MichaelH: I should mention that this project is very old... 1997

LindseyPW: some of my kids are very in to technology and with some guidelines they can make 4-6 page pp

LindseyPW: that is 1st grade

LindseyPW: also it is a great way for you to introduce lessons

MichaelH: Kid Pix is very "kid friendly", and has many of the same attributes as Power Point

MichaelH: here's the link for Kid Pix if you'd like to take a look:

MichaelH: http://www.riverdeep.net/products/kid_pix/kpd4.jhtml

DouglasRM: good stuff...

CathyAB: I just glanced at the PP and it was awesome. Us Social Studies people really like something like this!

BridgetM: I took student writing and scanned art to make PP for 3rd graders class book. I figured it was like doing the bookbinding for younger kids.

MichaelH: this was in our "infancy" stage as far as using classroom technology.

MichaelH: a lot of water under the bridge since then

CathyAB: I recently judged a tech fair and saw first grade PP's that were better than mine!

MichaelH: I used this as the basis for an article I wrote for the "Well Connected Educator" as well

BJB2: speaking of Fairs...

BJB2: there will be an ENC Math and Science Fair on March 1

MichaelH: http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/hutchin.htm

BJB2: it will be a two hour event.

Herschels: link to the article, Michael?

CathyAB: What's ENC?

DavidWe: Eisenhower National Clearinghouse

MichaelH: there you go, Herschel

CathyAB: thanks

DouglasRM: thanks

DavidWe: o O (Dept. of Education's project to collect all K-12 math and science stuff)

MariaAR: Yes! We have Kid Pix, maybe I should give it a try.

CathyAB: Maria, you and your kids will love it!

MichaelH: Herschel (and everyone else), there's also a web page on the TAPPED IN site with all the resources you would need to do this project right now... all the rubrics, requirement sheets, etc.

MichaelH: it's at <http://tappedin.org/archive/projects/presidency/>

MichaelH: please forgive my horrible attempt at a web page on this

CathyAB: We just go to that site to get the resources?

MichaelH: yep

BridgetM: thank you

CathyAB: Wonderful-- thanks!

MichaelH: Well, gang, we are about at the end of our hour... anyone have any questions?

DouglasRM: thanks

RamiaF: thank you

LindseyPW: thanks

DouglasRM: I think I'm good

CathyAB: Thanks - Bye to Doug and Ramia

MichaelH: before we go...

RamiaF: bye Cathy and Doug

MichaelH: Herschel is going to be our guest at a session on March 23

DouglasRM: adios, y'all

MariaAR: I guess I sounded too negative, I will try it with a few of my students, since we only have three working computers in our room.

RamiaF: thank u

LindseyPW: bye thank you

MichaelH: he's going to be discussing a fun lesson topic for us

BJB2: cool, Herschel!

MichaelH: Herschel, want to take a second and tell 'em?

Herschels: Sure its GIS, <http://www.hmsgis.multimedialearning.org/> here is a website where you can learn more. I'm kind of a Gis MISSIONARY, its really an exciting technology

MichaelH: Herschel will be the guest for the March 23 session, so I hope you'll all tune in for that one!

CathyAB: Will check in with you on March 23 Herschel. Bye from Texas! Thanks guys for all your help!

BJB2: I look forward to that, Michael.

Herschels: happy powerpointing to all!

DouglasRM: thanks, Michael, see y'all next time

BridgetM: thanks again