

Using Plotagon to Engage All Students in Script Writing

Audience:

Literacy and ELL teachers, applicable to Social Studies.

Description:

Finding compelling reasons to get struggling writers to write can be challenging. Participants will be introduced to Plotagon, a script-writing program, which can help create learning opportunities for their students that will engage and motivate. Participants will review a model lesson using Plotagon and learn how to use the software themselves. Participants will also get an overview of the new Plotagon Educator's account with tools that help with managing class work and facilitating a smooth revision process.

Goal:

Equip participants with a new teaching tool that incorporates technology into a fun writing assignment.

Objective:

Participants will be introduced to Plotagon, technology requirements, and classroom integration strategies and have opportunity to produce a short scene themselves.

Agenda:

1. Introductions, Plotagon.com, and Examples of student created work (5 minutes)
2. Learn how to use the Plotagon program through hands on demonstration (15 minutes)
3. Planning a lesson with Plotagon (20 minutes)
 - a. What is an upcoming unit / topic that you teach which can be integrated with Plotagon?
 - b. Create / modify a lesson plan for the topic you select.
 - c. Using Plotagon, create a model project to show students what to aim for.
 - d. Checklist for using Plotagon in the classroom.
4. Review of the new educator tools (5 minutes)
5. Evaluation (5 minutes)

Resources:

1. Plotagon software, available at <http://www.plotagon.com>
2. Good teacher guides:
 - a. video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGfL2YFBeaY>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZaEluhHqOc>
 - b. Plotagon's blog: <http://blog.plotagon.com/>

- c. Kathy Scrock's Digital Storytelling Guide:
<http://www.schrockguide.net/digital-storytelling.html>
- 3. Similar tool to compare/consider: Nawmal.com: <http://www.nawmal.com/products/>
- 4. Printed Step by Step Guide: <http://jgregorymcvery.com/plotagon-a-powerful-tool/>

Presenter's Guide

1. **Introduction:** Plotagon.com
Plotagon is an award-winning educational app that allows students to create instant, animated videos just by writing. Whether presenting reports, practicing vocabulary words or debating hot topics, students become more engaged when they see their ideas come to life.
2. **The Future Me Project**
 - a. Based on the NY Lottery commercial where future me visits present me to give critical advice for how to be successful in life, the Future Me projects asks students to stage a visit from their future self and give them the right advice to guarantee a bright future, doing what they want with their lives.
 - b. Samples of student work.
3. **Technology Requirements:**
 - a. PC / Mac / needs to be installed on each machine
 - b. Students need to create accounts to begin using the software
 - c. You'll need a strategy to manage deliverables
4. **Teaching Requirements:**
 - a. Sample movie of what you're asking them to produce
 - b. Script writing lesson plan that allows students to write their scripts almost entirely before accessing the program.
 - c. Vocabulary: Mood vocabulary to help students correctly express mood in their scripts.
 - d. A rubric.
5. **How to use Plotagon**
 - a. Model lesson teaching the use of Plotagon (participants / presenter)
 - b. Video tutorials (above)
6. **Classroom integration ideas:**
 - a. Kathy Scrock's Digital Storytelling Guide:
<http://www.schrockguide.net/digital-storytelling.html>
 - b. Plotagon's Blog: <http://blog.plotagon.com>
7. **Checklist for using Plotagon in your classroom:**
 - a. Is the software installed on each computer?
 - b. Have students written their scripts prior to using the software for the first time?
 - c. Have I reviewed the benefits of the educators account and considered deliverable management issues?
 - d. Have I decided where movies will be showcased?
8. **Time to create lesson idea.**
9. **Share out** of teacher project ideas.
10. Review of Educator Tools
11. Evaluation.