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Lesson Plan--Title: Telling Your Own Story – Skill level: Intermediate
7th Grade Students

Materials needed:

- Computer workstations
- Pinnacle Studio 9 Video Editing Software
- Video Cameras – one for each group
- Hi-8 Video Tapes – one per student
- Disposable cameras – one per student
- Storyboard paper

Objectives (Based on the Sunshine State Standards):

- Students will design, conceptualize, and interpret formal productions.
- Students will write and refine scripts based on heritage, imagination, and personal experiences
- Students will understand applications of the role of film as it applies to everyday life.
- Students will demonstrate the use of various technologies to gather and organize information necessary for the production of a specific project in a specific medium.
- Students will demonstrate skills in the operation of equipment a media production.
- Students will critically, technically, and aesthetically analyze media productions created by self and others.

Summary:

The students will tell their personal story digitally using a combination of still photos and video. The students will work individually and together in groups to complete the project. The end product will be a 5 minute video of their story narrated by the individual students.

Students should have the basic skills and knowledge of cinematography and video editing before this assignment.

The new video element to be added to the student's repertoire of skills is **Picture-in-Picture.**

Day 1:

The assignment is introduced to the students. The students are informed that they will be creating a video using still photos, live video, and narration that tells his/her personal story.
- A story that shows and tells who they are, a story about their family, friends, hobbies, interests, sports they play, etc. All of those "things" that make them who they are as unique individuals.
- The video should be shot in documentary style using slow shutter.
- Students are each given a disposable camera.
- It is explained to the students that they will have 3 days to finish the role of film

- The students are to take pictures of all the things that make them who they are, friends, family, hobbies, interests, etc.
- It is explained to the students that no more than 6 out of the 24 shots can be of them and their friends.
- It is explained to the students that the end product should roughly consist of ¼ still shots and ¾ video.

Activity:

- 5 minutes -- Students are to brainstorm by them selves all of the things they can think of that make them unique individuals.
- 10 minutes – students are to turn to someone in class and share their brainstorming list. Each partner then offers feedback on possible ways to demonstrate the things on the list.

Day 2:

Activity:
- Students will create a storyboard for their story based on the feedback they received the previous day.
- Students are reminded that each different shot requires them to create a new drawing on the storyboard.
- Including still photos students are require having a minimum of 35 different frames on their storyboard.

Day 3:

- Students will listen to various stories on audio tapes
- During the listening process the students will write down the qualities the storytellers have that make their stories interesting and fun to listen to.
- The students will share what they wrote down with 2 other people in class
- We will then discuss the students' ideas as a whole class.

Days 4-5:

- Students will work in groups of 3 or 4 and begin filming on campus
- Each student will have his/her own blank Hi-8 video tape to record his/her individual interests
- During the class period all of the students in the group will have an opportunity to be in front of the camera as being the camera operator
- Each student should try to maintain the integrity of his/her storyboard working on one shot at a time.
- Students can also use the disposable cameras to shoot pictures during this time.
- At the end of day 5 all disposable cameras will be collected for picture development. The pictures will be developed on digital discs.

Days 6-7:

- Students will write the narration for his/her story
- The narration should be based on the photos and video shot over the past few days
- Students will find a partner and practice their narration at least 5 times before committing it to tape.

Days 8 – 9:

- Students will work with their groups recording the narrations for each story
- Students will record the narration on video tape

Day 9:

In-class demonstration/modeling:

- Demonstrate to the students using both Power Point and Studio 9 the way to incorporate still photos in your video project.
- Demonstrate to the students using both Power Point and Studio 9 the proper techniques for using the video technique of Picture-in-Picture.
- If possible, show examples of previous classes and the way they incorporated Picture-in-Picture in various projects.
- Review with students the process of deleting the picture portion of the video tape and using just the sound track on the video.

Days 10 -- 22:

- The students will move back into their groups.
- Working at the various computer stations each student will get 3 days to edit his/her project on the computer – including burning the final product onto a DVD disc.
- While each student is editing the other students in the group will offer helpful tips and suggestions to make the project better. The others in the group will serve as support for the editor and help when the editor when he/she is greeted with a challenge.
- Students will be assessed during this time using the attached observation sheet.

Day 23:

Students will view and analyze each student's project during class.

Creative Comments	Helpful Hints	Off-Task
Total	Total	Total