

Motivating Students to Write with Digital Writing

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Our Agenda

- What is digital writing?
- How do you select the right project and tool?
- What digital writing looks like Pre-K to grade 12
- Informational texts
- Opinions & arguments
- Narrative & creative texts

Example, examples, examples!

"There is not a writer in our classrooms today who will not be producing something with a digital writing tool in her or his lifetime." -- Troy Hicks



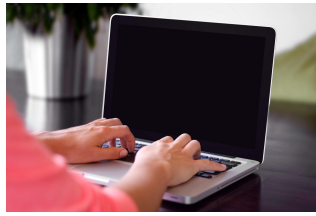
Getting to Know You

Who Are
you?

Somebody who...



Let's write!



What does digital writing mean to you?
What does it make you think of?

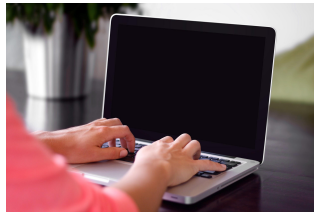
Give ONE-word answers

<http://tinyurl.com/DWThoughts>

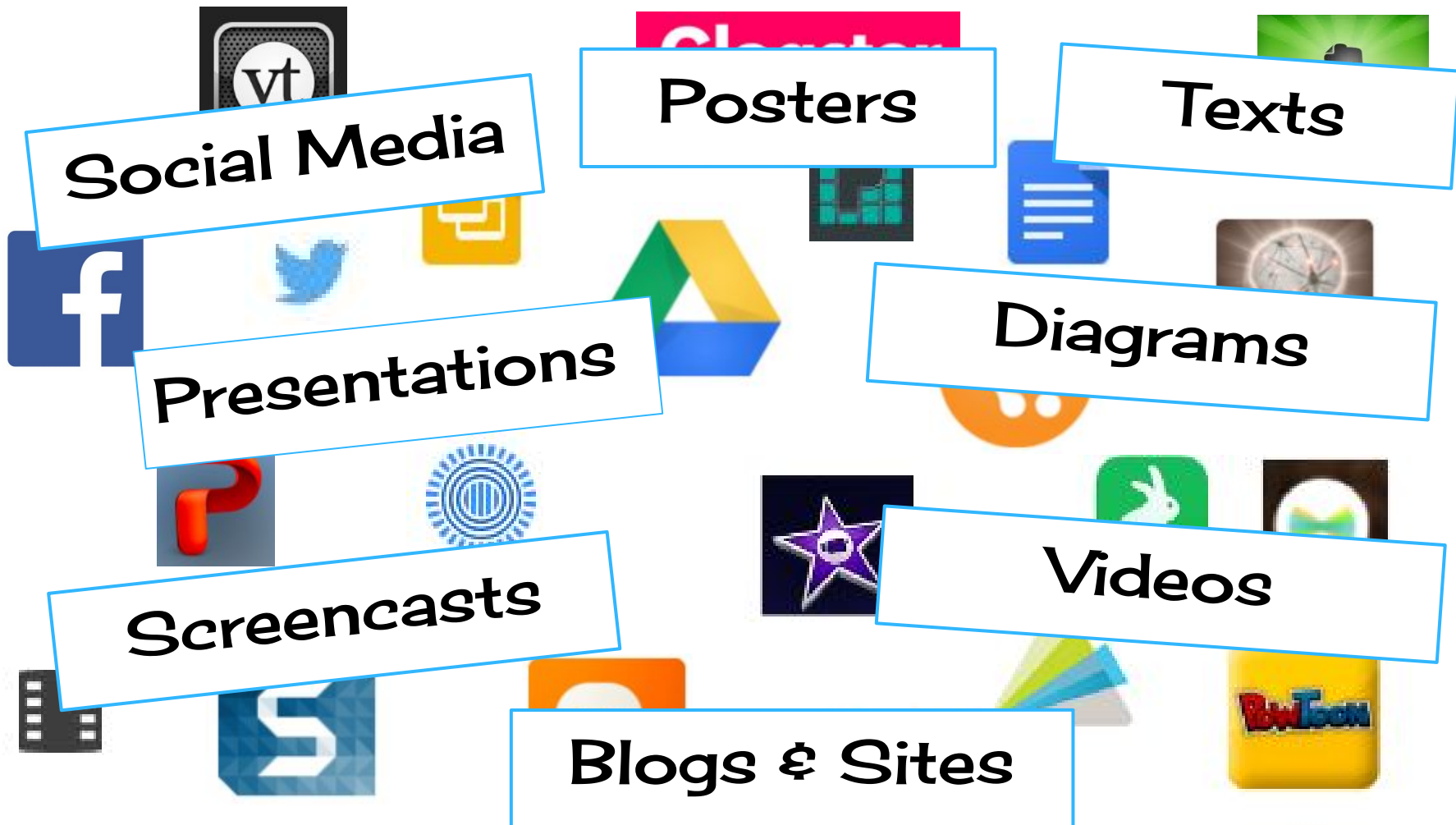
AnswerGarden.ch is a basic non-Java "wordle"
(Chrome friendly)



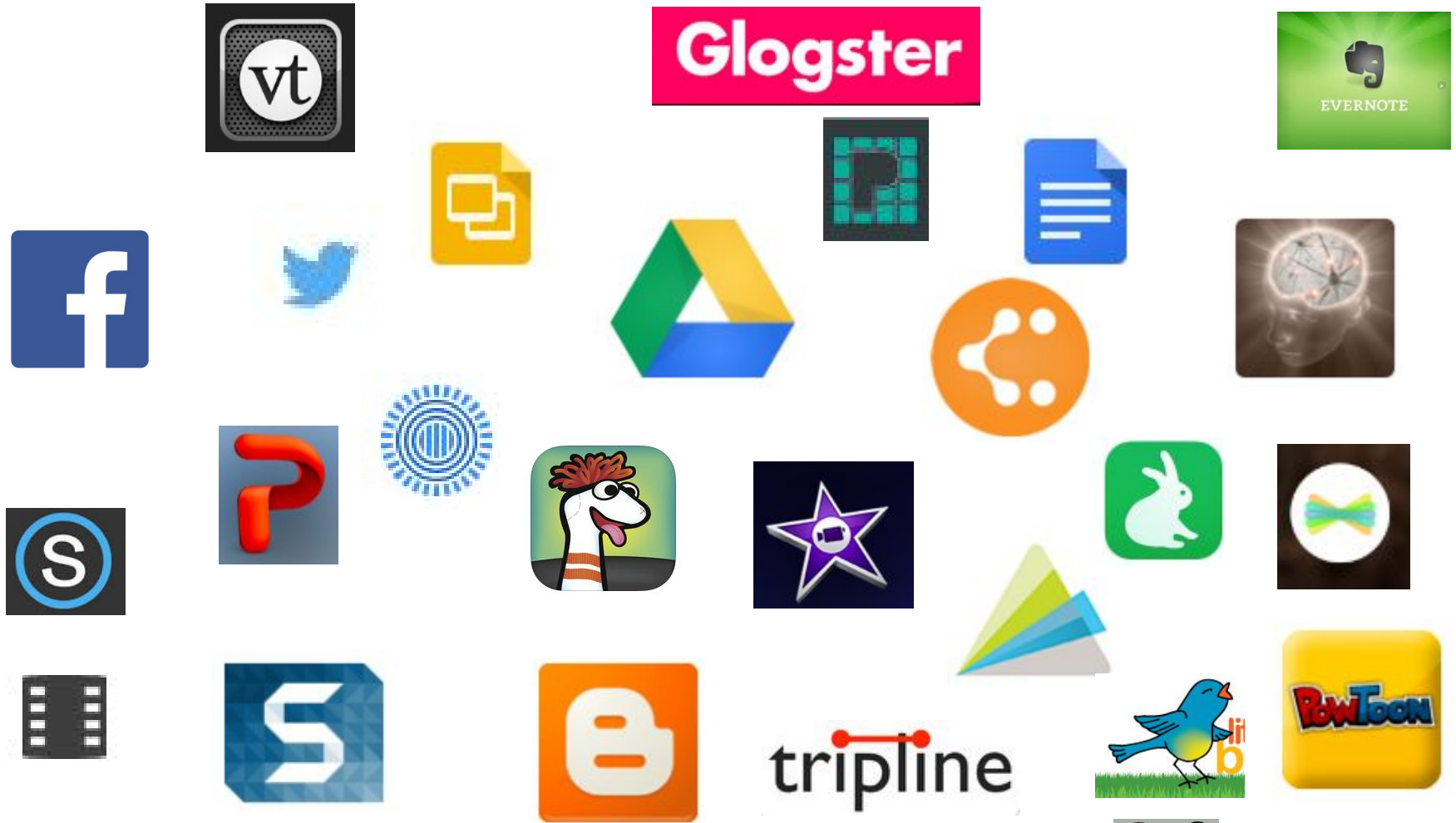
Let's write!



What is Digital Writing?



What is Digital Writing?

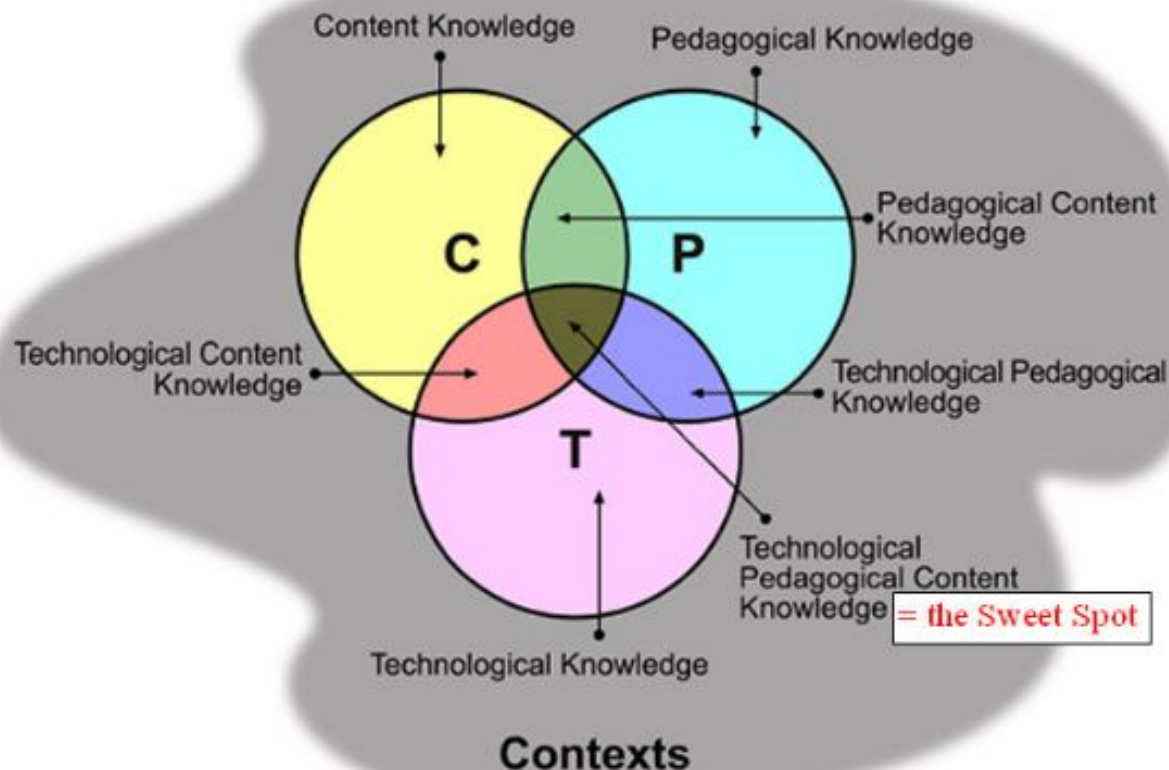


Which Tool Should You Use?



~~Which Tool Should You Use?~~

Technology should **never** drive writing!
Standards and curriculum must be the driving force.



CCSS Writing Standards



CCSS Writing Standards:

*bold = MN addition to the CCSS

X.6.1.1 Write opinion pieces ... (K-5) [\(not persuasive\)](#)
then Write arguments to support claims (6-12)

X.6.2.2 Write informative/explanatory texts...

X.6.3.3 Write narratives **and other creative texts**...

K-1: Shared writing

Gr 2-3: Shared to independent writing**

Gr 4+: Independent writing, scaffolded

** in immersion



CCSS Writing Standards



***bold** = MN addition to the CCSS

MN Multimedia Anchor Standards (K-12):

- 7. Critically analyze information found in electronic, print, and mass media and use a variety of these sources.**
- 8. Communicate using traditional or digital multimedia formats and digital writing and publishing for a specific purpose.**

K-2: How do you read a multimodal text?

Gr 3+: Analyze mentor text & apply to your own writing



What Is Digital Writing?

An evolution!

1. [Reading](#)
2. [Listening](#)
3. [Multimodal Experience](#)



Billy Collins reflected on the process of transforming his words into multimodal text in [this TED talk](#).

What Is Digital Writing?

An

*Digital writing is
much more than a
format or a tool.
**It's a different way to
write AND read!***

poem "Forgetfulness"

Billy Collins reflected on the process of transforming his words into multimodal text in [this TED talk](#).



Writing on paper

1. Words & images (photos, illustrations, etc.)
2. Limited audience (teacher, students in the class/school)
3. Text is laborious to modify
4. Collaboration is cumbersome (exchange papers)
5. The reader must follow page by page

Digital Writing

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Digital Writing

1. Multimodal: words, images (photos, drawings, videos, etc.) and sounds (narration, music, sound effects)
2. Audience can be worldwide
3. Text is easy to modify
4. Collaboration is easy (Google Apps = instant access to all version/revisions of the text.)
5. The reader may create his/her own "reading pathway" (by choosing hyperlinks)

Writing on paper

6. Text comprehension fully depends on written words.
7. The reader's comprehension may be impacted by the handwriting legibility, spelling, punctuation, etc.
8. Delayed feedback.
9. Difficult for L2 learners with limited vocabulary .

Digital Writing

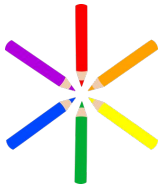
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Digital Writing

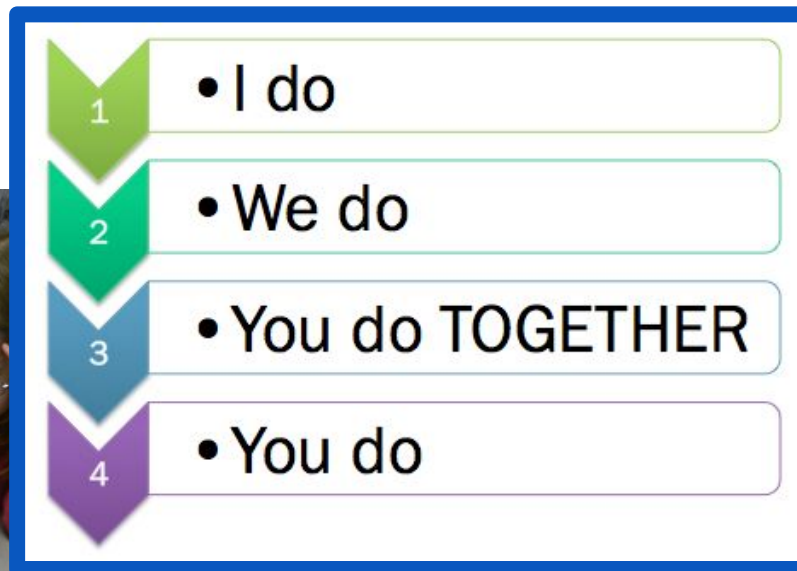
6. Text comprehension comes not only from reading but also from listening (narration, music, sound effects) and viewing (illustrations, video).
7. Handwriting legibility, spelling, punctuation may be less important.
8. Feedback from the reader can be instantaneous.
9. Easier for L2 learners who can use all modalities to show what they know.





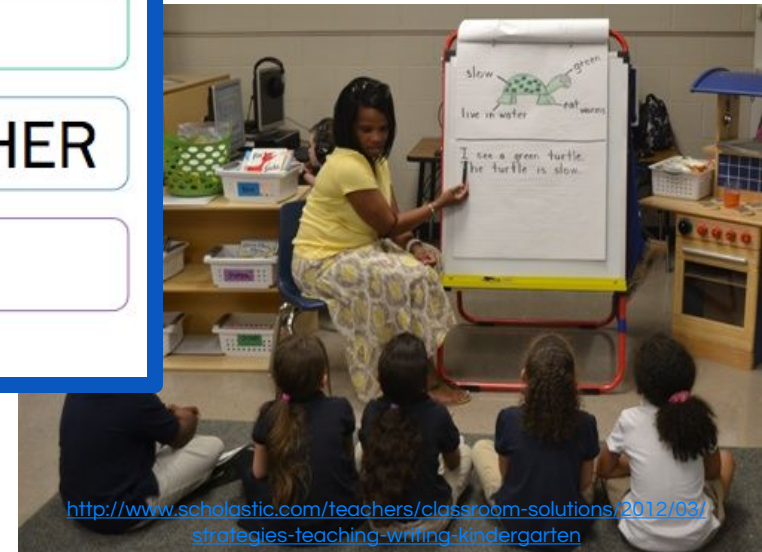
Work Towards Mary Poppins... Pre K-3

- Laying a foundation of skills
- Shared writing to *gradual release of responsibility* towards *scaffolded* independent writing



<http://patch.com/virginia/fairfaxcity/fairfax-kindergartenerswriting-computer-code>

useful articles about teaching writing.



<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/classroom-solutions/2012/03/strategies-teaching-writing-kindergarten>

Work Towards Mary Poppins... Gr 4-12

- Scaffolded independent writing
- More creativity and choice of topics
- Writing independently for Language Arts and other academic content areas.



Click on picture links for useful articles about teaching writing.



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What Writing Looks Like: ALL GRADES



<http://4thgraderacers.blogspot.com/2015/07/authentic-audiences-for-student-writing.html>



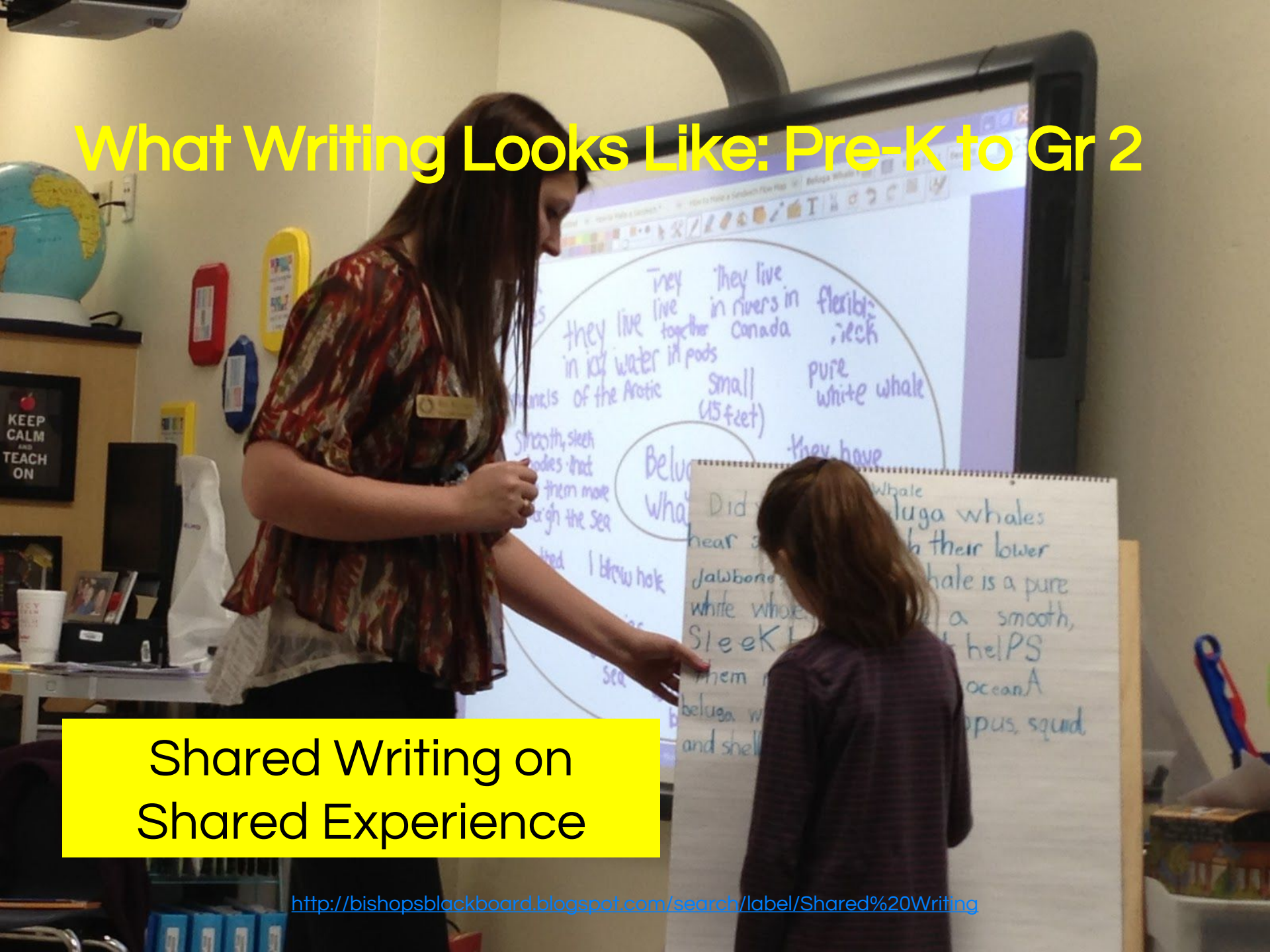
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What Writing Looks Like: ALL GRADES



Limit choices: 1 topic, 1 bank of words & expressions

What Writing Looks Like: Pre-K to Gr 2



Shared Writing on
Shared Experience

What Writing Looks Like: Pre-K to Gr 2

What we write becomes what we read!



What Writing Looks Like: Pre-K to Gr 2

A Celebration of Learning!



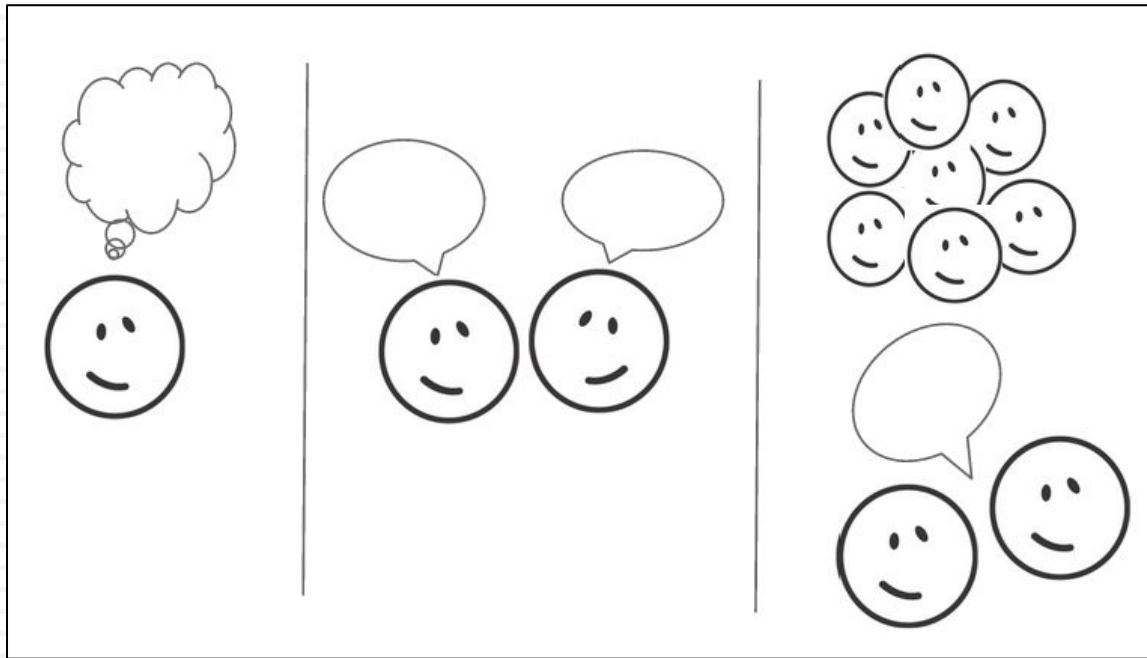
What Writing Looks Like: Pre-K to Gr 2

EXAMPLE

Retelling events from a shared farm visit experience, [Le bébé cochon](#) (K, [Shadow Puppet](#))

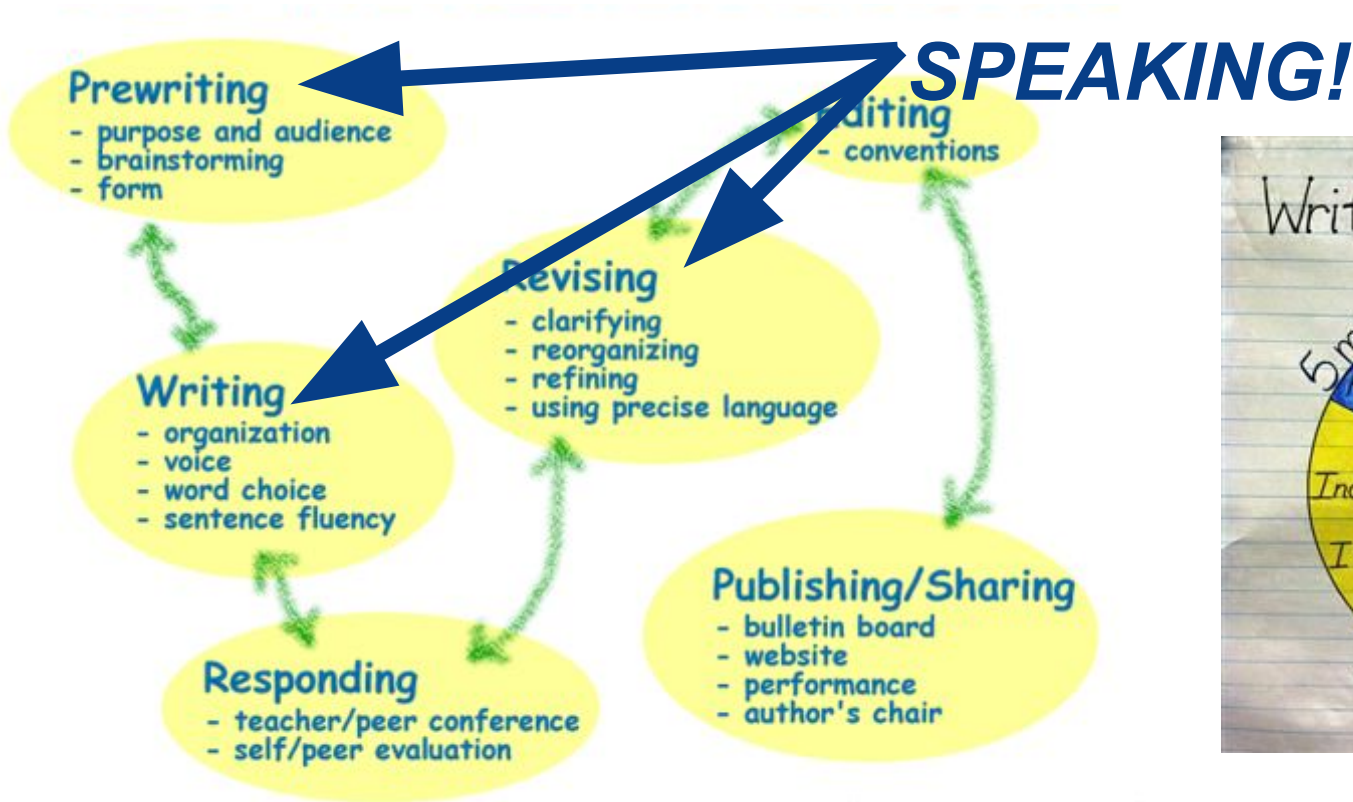


What shared experience could your students write about?



What Writing Looks Like: Gr 2 & Beyond

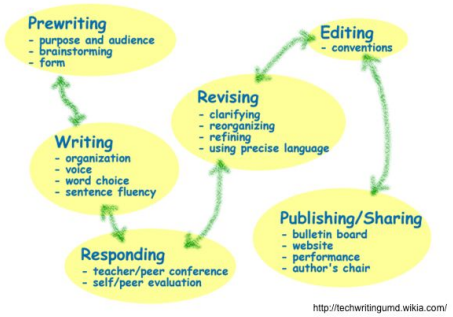
Begin to model & practice the writing process



<http://techwritingumd.wikia.com/>

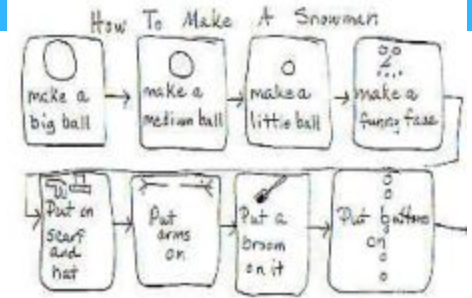


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The Digital Writing Process

- **PRE-WRITING** may include a storyboard or a graphic organizer



- **WRITING** alone or in groups, synchronously or asynchronously (use comments and different font colors for each author)



- **REVISING & EDITING** are easy: revision history, feedback from teacher/peers via comments
- **PUBLISHING** via Seesaw, Google Site, YouTube, Blogger, etc.

What Writing Looks Like: Pre-K to Gr 2

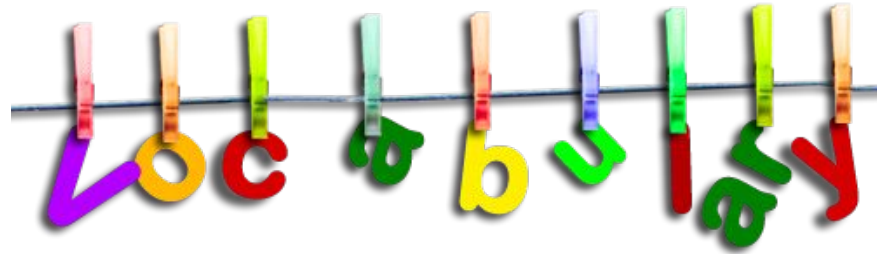
EXAMPLE

A day in the life of class mascot Pal: [Une journée avec Pal](#) (Gr 2, [Little Bird Tales](#))

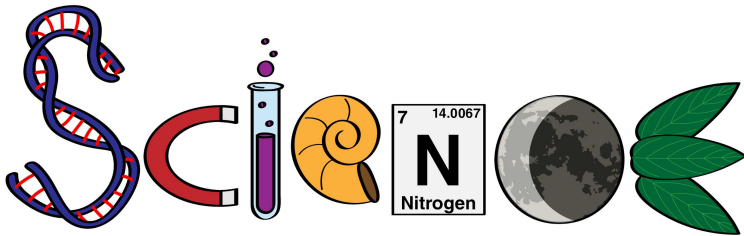


What did this writing process look like?

What Writing Looks Like: Gr 3 & Beyond



Select a topic that reinforces learned vocabulary

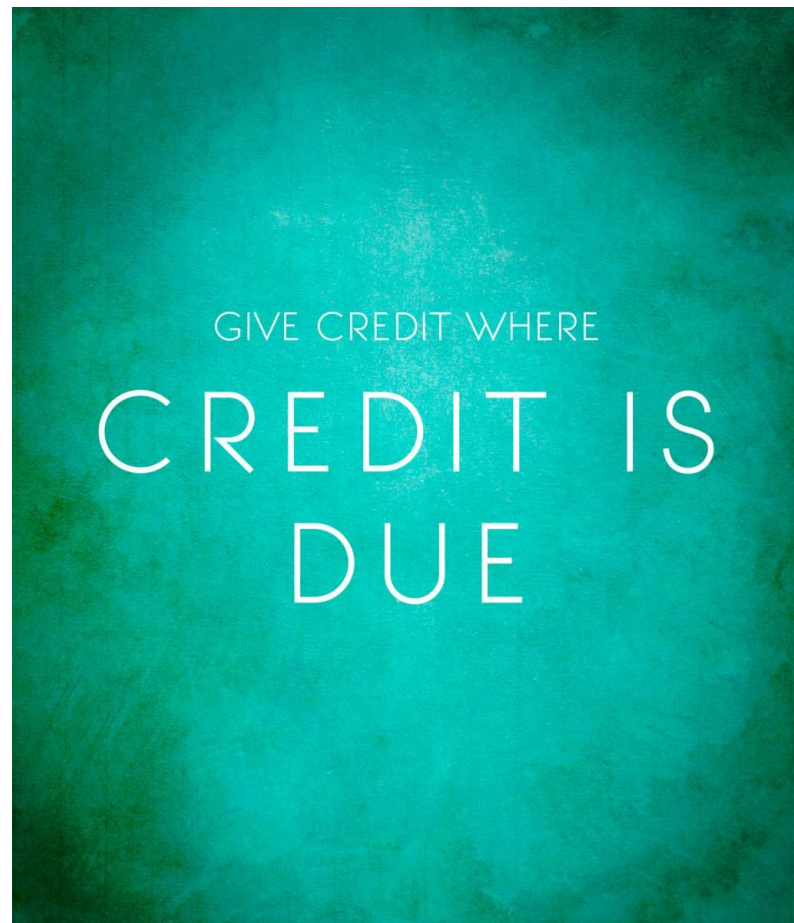


What Writing Looks Like: Gr 3 & Beyond

Teach students to give credit for images, music, websites, etc.

[Pixabay](#)

[FreeWebPhoto](#)



[FreePlayMusic](#)

[Jamendo](#)



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What Writing Looks Like: Gr 4

EXAMPLE

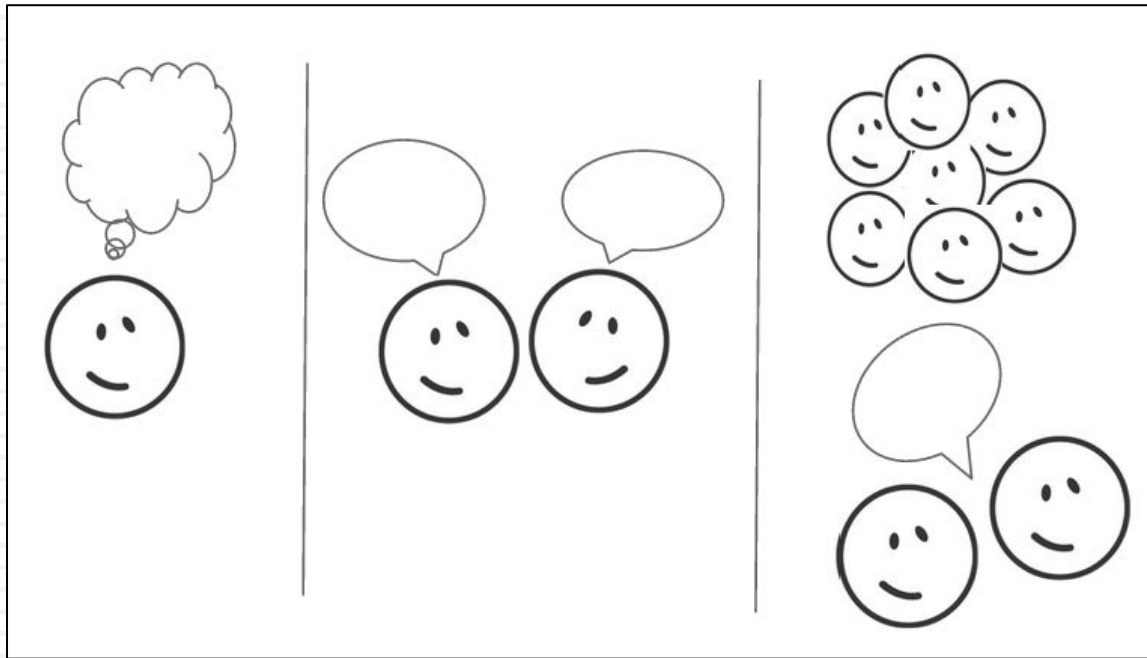
[Letters from a Japanese internment camp](#)

(Gr 4, [Voicethread](#) → Screencast on website/blog)



What did this writing process look like?

What are your content topics that lend themselves to writing digitally?



<http://tinyurl.com/DigitalWriting4>

Go to Slide 36!

What Can Student Write About?



CCSS Essential Writing Standards:

- Informational Texts
- Opinions
- Narrative & Other Creative Texts

SHARE



INFORM



PERSUADE



K-2 Digital Writing Examples

Informational Texts:

- [My Arcade Game](#) (K, [Shadow Puppets](#))
- [Addition solving](#) (K, Shadow Puppets)
- Student Interview: [Qui es-tu?](#) (K, iPad recording)
- [Brassica Plant Growth](#) (Gr 2, Google Slides)
- [Reflecting on engineering project](#) (Gr 2, Google Slides)

Narrative & Creative Texts:

- [Color Poems](#) (Gr 1, [Voicethread](#))
- [Les Couleurs](#) (K, iPad recording)

Gr 3+ Digital Writing Examples

Informational Texts:

- Illustrated vocabulary definitions: [Consumption](#), [Absorption](#) (Gr 4, [Little Bird Tales](#))
- What if famous rock formations could talk? [Wave Rock](#) , [National Ridge](#) (Gr 4, [Blabberize](#))
- [National vs. State Government](#) (Gr 4, Google Slides)
- Tectonic plates: [Les tremblements de terre](#) (Gr 5, Sciences, [Powtoon](#))
- How to draw an optical illusion: [Comment dessiner une illusion optique](#) (Gr 4, [Snapguide](#))

Gr 3+ Digital Writing Examples

Informational Texts:

- How to build a simple circuit: [Comment faire un circuit électrique](#) (Gr 4, [Snapguide](#))
- How to multiply two numbers: [Comment faire une multiplication arabe](#) (Gr 4, [ScreenCast-O-Matic](#))
- Infographic on [L'équivalence des mesures](#) & [L'aire d'un rectangle](#) (Gr 4, [PiktoChart](#))

Gr 3+ Digital Writing Examples

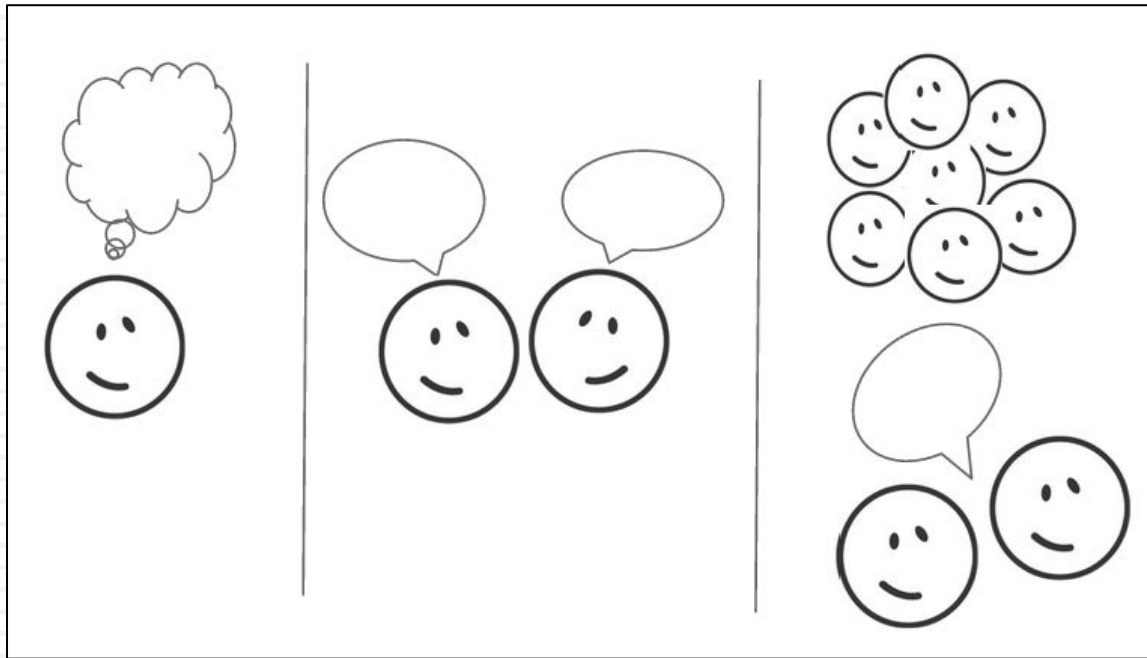
Opinions

- Collaborative presentations on solutions to wasted time in the hallways: [Temps Perdu](#) & [Strategies](#) (Gr 4, Google Slides, [revision history](#))
- After studying ancient Egypt, students created advertisements: [Papyrus](#) (Gr 3, [Animoto](#))

Narrative & Creative Texts:

- Rewriting Cinderella with a twist, story trailers: [Cinder Surgeon](#) & [Cinder Spongebob](#) (Gr 4, [Voki](#))

What additional ideas do you have?



Informational Writing Ideas: K-3

- Retell a field trip experience
- Science: record outdoor observations, create a picture story as plants/animals develop, tell how animals are adapted to their environment.
- Record a video book talk
- Retell an entire book (one page per student)
- Explain a math problem solving strategy

Informational Writing Ideas: Gr 4+

- Science:
 - Record outdoor observations of environments (Gr 5)
 - Create a picture story of engineering design process, building an electrical circuit (Gr 4), or designing a variables experiment (Gr 5)
 - Educate people about local sources of pollution or non-renewable sources of energy (Gr 5)
 - Explain natural phenomena: volcanoes, earthquakes, etc (Gr 5)
 - Educate people about pollution issues around the community (Gr 6-8)
 - Advocate for local solutions to climate change (Gr 6-8).

Informational Writing Ideas: Gr 4+

- Retell a field trip experience
- Record a video book talk (YouTube, Animoto, Vimeo,)
- Explain a math problem-solving strategy
- Social Studies:
 - Explain the benefits of living in one area of North America via a presentation or advertisement (Gr 4)
 - Explain the Absent Narrative missing perspectives of early US History (Gr 5) or US-Dakota Conflict (Gr 6)

Share!

What additional ideas do you have?



Opinion Writing Ideas: K-3

- Favorite foods, animals, etc. K: "My favorite animal is... because..."
- School and community issues: "I think we should... because..."
- Think of Service-Learning connections!

Opinion Writing Ideas: Gr 4-5

- Gr 4: People who like to (ski, surf, mountain climb, etc) should live in... because. If you could live anywhere in North America, where would you live and why?
Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes, so do Minnesotans need to conserve water?
- Gr 5: Should fifth graders have phones to school? Give your opinion on how to protect the environment, prevent specific types of pollution, offer solutions for global warming, etc.

Argument Writing Ideas: Gr 6-8

- Are current racial issues like those of the Civil Rights era?
- Should teachers let students use phones in the classroom?
- Should there be a wolf hunt in Minnesota?
- Other [Academic Controversy](#) topics
- Keep in mind Service-Learning connections!

Share!

What additional ideas do you have?



Narrative & Creative Texts Ideas: K-3

- Limited vocabulary makes narratives the hardest
- Focus on one topic, e.g. describe your best friend, your family.
- Use sentence stems to guide K-1 students: "My best friend has __ eyes and __ hair."
- Focus on poetry:
 - Sentence stems and students add rhyming words
 - Haiku poems for a science or social studies topic

Narrative & Creative Texts Ideas: 4+

- Retell a book (or a made-up sequel) and pass it on to a younger grade.
- Try to narrow the topic, such as describing your best friend, your first day in middle school.
- "When I was little" story (natural practice of past tenses agreement).
- Don't discount poetry (e.g. acrostiche poems) and spoken word. These poems could take on a social justice goal by focusing on topics like bullying, tolerance, racial equity, etc.

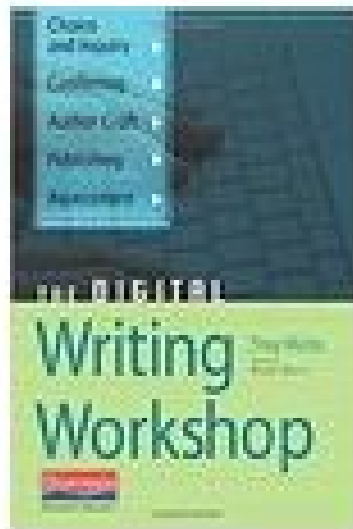
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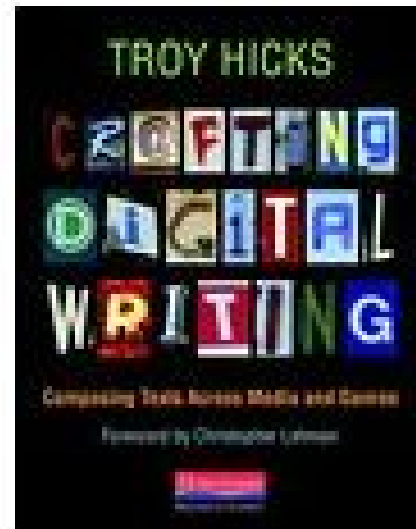


Additional Resource

[Troy Hicks books](#) (Gr 4-12)



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Questions?



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