

THE ARTS IN STEM

Due on March 15, 2021 to Dropbox

ART INTEGRATION PAPER -- JACQUELINE EDELMANN FRANKSTONE

I plan to use Digital Storytelling in my 7th grade class this spring. Digital storytelling requires the use of computer-based tools in order to tell a story, and will allow students to put forth a particular point of view and to “personalize” and present their characters in unique ways. During this period when so many of my students are learning from home, we have had to look at paper-free options for lessons and for assessments, and to provide equity for in-person and virtual students.

One of my favorite assignments is our “Endangered Species” project, in which the students select an endangered animal species and produce a 2-page newspaper about it. Students look at the habitat, environmental factors, what is going wrong, and what can we do to change this? I think that they would be very excited to make a public service announcement -- a commercial! We can incorporate script-writing, possibly animation, and digital story-telling as they present the story of their endangered animal.

For me, this is a really fun way to update the project. I firmly believe that students need to be able to communicate their ideas, and to let me know what they know! In this format, we are moving away from the standard newspaper format (which makes me a little sad) and going into short videos (1 minute) that they research, write, and make happen. I know that Weebly has a free 1-minute platform, but I will research others. I think that the whole class will really enjoy watching these videos, and it is great to have 12-13 year olds think about the world’s biodiversity and what we might lose. They can help change this! I really hope that they see this!

To incorporate other disciplines, I will have the students look at several different areas of concentration as they develop their projects. First, because I teach in a Catholic school we will incorporate Religion. We have the work of Pope Francis called *Laudato Si'* in which he outlines our responsibility to respect, preserve, and nurture our Earth as a gift from God and as a necessity for human life. Secondly, I will have students incorporate Math in the form of “visual math.” What statistics can they show, and how can they show them effectively to really help people see the urgency of that species's situation? Visual Math incorporates Art naturally. Certainly, ELA is a part of this too because students have to communicate in a minute. Their writing has to be clear, concise, convincing in one minute.

References:

Pope Francis, The Vatican, [Laudato Si'](http://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si_en.pdf) retrieved on March 14, 2021 from http://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

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