**Project 5 ~ Electronic Book**

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**Introduction**

The electronic book was one of the most practical and easily integrated products for my classroom. In fact, my fifth-grade enrichment students have already created electronic books to review their previous year’s Latin words and stems. We focused on the Six Traits of writing and Latin-based stems and words while we created these electronic books. These books engaged my students and prepared them for the digital age where we live. The electronic book was enjoyable to create, but what was even more enjoyable was to view the books my own students made.

**Purpose, Target Audience, Theme, and Curricular Objectives Addressed**

The purpose of my project was to offer my students an opportunity to review the previous year’s Latin-based words and stems in a relevant and meaningful avenue. Offering an electronic book as the publishing mechanism for the students engaged them in a manner that I have never before seen. The shortest book that was written by my fifth grade student was 3 pages, but the longest book was 17 pages. The average book was 8 single-spaced typed pages. Clearly, they were so excited to write these electronic books. The electronic book that I used as my product was written by my students in a round-table manner. It is quite short, but it was written in less than ten minutes to act as a brainstorming session to stimulate their creative juices. The target audience of this electronic book is my fifth grade enrichment students, but I could use a similar project for my third grade students. The theme of the project is Latin-based word review. My students complete a three-year intensive study of Latin-based words and stems. The creation of an electronic book allowed my students to have an authentic assessment of their knowledge of the Latin-based words and stems.

**Use of Project**

As stated, I have already used this project this year. My students wrote, typed, and added graphics to their electronic books. The children then presented their electronic books in a “coffee house” manner. We used our SMART Board to view the projects in a larger venue. Next year, I hope to teach the children hyperlinks so that they will hyperlink their word to the matching definition. This year I had the children create a glossary slide, but it was not hyperlinked.

**The Challenges**

The challenge of this product was the illustrations. My own students were given the option to add clip art or scan in their own illustrations to their electronic book. Only one child out of twenty-six students chose to scan in her own illustrations. It took a very long time to draw the pictures. In fact, I did not have enough time to do this so I had my son draw the pictures and I colored them. They certainly do not look as professional as if I used clip art. I know in the future I would never draw my own pictures as I am a terrible artist and it took way too long. The time and value did not equal each other. If learning to use a scanner was the purpose of submitting our own artwork, I believe a different assignment could suffice.

**What I Learned**

I am doing very well with Audacity and hyperlinks. The one element I changed with the hyperlinks is now I am able to hyperlink from one project to another. I had an action button in the continuous PowerPoint that linked to the clicking version. In the clicking version PowerPoint, I had an action button that linked to the continuous version. This was something I had never done before. I now feel comfortable with PowerPoint 2007. I had already scanned before so I did not learn how to do that, but it is always good to have another opportunity to practice. I am not becoming as frustrated when things do not work out the first time. I am making steady progress with integrating technology into my classroom. This project allowed me to use all the technological skills that I acquired this semester.

**Conclusion**

I wondered if my students would prefer electronic books over paper books. I showed my students the project 5 resource Books Unbound, and then a cartoon about electronic books surpassing paper books. We had a short debate about the pros and cons of electronic books. I was so pleased to hear that my students would miss real paper books. The smell of a new book, the feel of the pages rustling in your hands, and the use of imagination were the primary reasons why my students prefer paper books. Most children felt that they would prefer their textbooks in an electronic form, but all the children said that for pleasure reading they would want a paper book. I can not imagine languidly lying on my hammock curled up with my lap top reading a good book. Just like my students, I want a real book! With that said, I thoroughly enjoyed creating this electronic book to showcase the knowledge I gained with my technological skills this semester.

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