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# **Re-Purposing Technology Reflection Paper**

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Throughout this course I have been given the opportunity to explore and learn about different forms of technology that can be re-purposed as educational tools. As a first grade teacher with limited access to technology beyond classroom computers it is important that I find and use technology tools that will truly enhance my students learning. A passion of mine is teaching creative writing therefore I looked to find a technology tool that would engage my class, while at the same time teach them the importance of story elements. My Storybook is an Internet website that I feel will be a great way to teach story elements in a fun and interactive way to my students. The lesson I created is meant to be a whole group activity that will allow them to learn how to use My Storybook independently in the future.

In creating a lesson using the technology tool My Storybook I needed to make sure I addressed the TPACK framework of knowledge: technology, content and pedagogy. As I created the lesson and looked through the TPACK components it allowed me to better understand how technology, content and pedagogy work together and intertwine.

The first form of knowledge I used in my creative writing lesson was technology. With first graders who have little to no prior knowledge of how to use a computer let alone the Internet it was important that I find a tool that was simple and gave explicit steps for them to follow. I found that My Storybook was perfect for this. It allows the students to be creative in writing a story but still directs them by giving choices in characters, settings and topics of a story. My Storybook uses the story elements that my students are learning about to guide the story creation, which addresses the next form of knowledge content.

Core Content Standards that I use help guide my teaching. These standards hold the teacher accountable for what students need to learn and a timeline set up by the school district guides instruction. Technological content knowledge is displayed in the lesson through the use of taking the objective of teaching story elements and integrating a technology that allows for interactive learning. Students are able to see how their thoughts and ideas can be created on screen and then printed to create a hands on book. This way of teaching exposes students to the fortitudes of technology.

Lastly I took into account the process in which I was going to teach and introduce My Storybook in order to appropriately teach the content and address the objectives I set for my

students. I considered how students at this age learn best and what prior knowledge they may bring to the lesson in order to create a lesson that introduced story elements and My Storybook in an age appropriate setting. When deciding on using My Storybook as a technology tool I used my technological pedagogical knowledge. I played around with My Storybook so I would be familiar with its components and would be able to troubleshoot any problems that may occur. It was important that this lesson could be expanded upon and the technology could someday be used independently during literacy centers.

The many different forms of technology that can be used to help enhance teaching are amazing. When deciding on what technology I should use to provide a stimulating and effective creative writing lesson I had to take into account our schools available resources. Unfortunately, we do not have access to as much technology as I would like. I believe that as new technology becomes more prevalent in all schools there will be a greater need to provide classrooms with the necessary tools such as SmartBoards and student laptops. In the mean time I will continue to re-purpose technology tools such as My Storybook to be effective tools in teaching subject matter and technology use in order to help strengthen my students understanding and technical competence.

I believe it is important to continue to explore the many faces of technology in order to grow as an educator. In the future I would like to re-purpose technology such as My Storybook into math studies for my students. I feel like this would be a great way to incorporate technology into math problem solving, which would allow my students to actually see the process of addition and subtraction in a fun and exciting format. Working with new forms of technology can be tedious and even a little frustrating at times, but the outcomes prove well worth it. In a time when technology is so readily available at your fingertips it has become part of the educators job to evolve and incorporate it appropriately and effectively in the classroom.