

8th Grade Language Arts Group Project

Group Contract

You will be working in groups of three members on a Microsoft Digital Photostory. Group members will be assigned and a list will be provided to you. Before you begin working together as a team, you will need to establish some ground rules. Please complete and submit a Group Contract. This group contract should include:

- An elected assigned team leader to submit the group project,
- An agreement to work on or prevent problems in the group.
- A communication plan agreeing to communicate via the discussion board, email, voicemail, chat, Wimba Live Classroom etc.
- Student goal(s), e.g. the grade that we are working toward is...
- All team members commit to this contract and agree to help each other succeed in class.
- State how the group intends on handling “freeloaders,” e.g. fire group member if he/she is not participating and producing the agreed upon work and report that group member to the teacher. Report group members who “hijack” the group project too. This is a group project, not an individual project. Value all group members input. A peer evaluation or grading report will be provided to you, so that you may assess each other’s participation and contributions to the group project.
- The file name should include the group member’s name and the project title, e.g. “lname_fname_projectA.”
- All team members should submit a copy of the agreed upon group contract by Saturday, 5 p.m. in the Learning Module 6 Assignment Area. Submission of this electronic contract is an acknowledgement and agreement of the terms written in it.

Group Project (Assignment)

Eighth grade Language Arts students will be required to assemble a picture story using Microsoft Digital Photostory 3. Be sure to include the main elements of a good story which include the theme, story structure, plot, setting, characters and style or tone of the story. You may want to read *What Makes a Good Story* by Aaron Shepard which includes tips for young authors before you begin this project.. A trial copy can be downloaded for free from the Microsoft Digital Photostory. If you are not sure whether your topic is acceptable, please email me for approval. Students may use personal digital cameras or check out a camera from the Library Audiovisual Equipment area. All photos should be saved as “optimized” .jpgs. After taking and sharing pictures online, students are to assemble the pictures in an order that allows them to tell a story and upload them to Microsoft Digital Photostory 3. Then, students are to write a narrative script

and produce the audio for their story. Groups may assign one or more audio storytellers. The written narrative should also be submitted with the final project. Students are encouraged to use the Document(s) Sharing feature within their GoogleApps account via Gmail to share group narratives and photos otherwise use the designated tools within the learning management system. If you choose to use GoogleDocs to collaborate and share your narrative documents and photos, be sure to review the GoogleDocs Tutorials located in the Resources below. Students are required to add a minimum of 5 transitions, special effects and background music in this project. Finally, students are to include a title slide and a credits slide for the final project.

- Students are to submit the completed group project which includes the Microsoft Digital Photostory and the narrative for the audio during the final week of school, specifically Wednesday at 10 p.m. in the Learning Module 9 of the Assignment area.
- Be sure to review the Group Project Grading Rubric before you begin working on this project. This project will count as twenty percent (20%) of your grade for this grading period.
- The elected team leader should submit the final project on behalf of the group. Please specify group name (Group 1, 2 or 3) along with the title of your group project.
- Each group member is to submit a peer evaluation or grading report on all group members including themselves by Wednesday at 10 p.m. in the Learning Module 9 of the Assignment area.

Resources:

[*What Makes a Good Story*](#) by Aaron Shepard

<http://microsoft-photo-story.en.softonic.com/>

http://www.atomiclearning.com/google_docs