Join the Conversation with VoiceThreads Links

VoiceThread Information

VoiceThread tutorials and manuals
http://ed.voicethread.com/#home
samples: click on Library
tutorials and manuals: click on Help

Wiki
http://voicethread4education.wikispaces.com/

VoiceThread Examples

Practice Spanish Language Skills - La Perrita Negrita
http://voicethread.com/share/266565/

AP US History Lesson Review – Industrialization and Corporate Consolidation
http://voicethread.com/share/335483/

Book Discussion - UberAbe 2009
http://newtrier.ed.voicethread.com/share/310569/

Teachers Sharing Ideas - 100 Ways to Use VoiceThread in EDU
http://voicethread.com/share/26224/

Resources
VoiceThread Manual
http://voicethread.com/help/manual/

VoiceThread blog
http://voicethread.com/blog/

VoiceThread Forum
http://voicethread.com/help/forum/

Join the Conversation wiki
http://jointheconversation.wikispaces.com/

Digitally Speaking VoiceThread handouts
http://digitallyspeaking.pbwiki.com/Voicethread#VoicethreadHandouts

Student Checklist

Voice Thread Step by Step

☐ Before you begin, be sure that you have a folder with your saved images and any other materials for this project.

☐ Have a completed written script that supports your images.

☐ Open an Internet browser

☐ Enter this address: http://yourschool.ed.voicethread.com/

☐ You will be prompted to sign in.
Click on Register!
Use your New Trier student email and password.

☐ Click **Create**

☐ Click **Upload** (Browse for your images, documents, pdf files, video or PowerPoint.) They should all be saved in one folder.

☐ After your images/documents are loaded, you can **Comment** on each one either with voice or text.

☐ Decide how this VoiceThread is to be **Shared**.

  o With individuals
  o With a group (entire class)
  o Worldwide

☐ Select the appropriate button for the type of sharing you chose.

☐ Choose the level of sharing
  o View only
  o View and comment
  o Co-editing (everything the author/creator can do)

Created by Suzy Tauber 01.2009 New Trier High School

Commenting on a Voicethread Presentation

Title of Presentation: _____

Use this handout to script any comments that you plan to add to this Voicethread presentation. Remember that scripting comments will help your recording to be clean and easy. Also remember that if you plan to add text comments, you should proofread them for spelling and grammar errors! Any time you post a comment that is poorly written, you cheapen your ideas.

Starter Comments:
Sometimes you will add new images to a Voicethread presentation. When you do, it is important to include a starter comment to focus the thinking of other viewers. The following templates will help you to structure starter comments for new images that you add to a Voicethread presentation:

What do you notice about this picture, titled _____ and showing _____
_____
_____
_____.

Kicker Comments:
Sometimes, you'll find that you are the first person to add comments to an image in a Voicethread presentation—or you might have a completely original idea that no one else has brought up yet. These types of comments are called kicker comments because they "kick off" a new strand of conversation. When making a kicker comment, it is important to remember to respond to any questions asked by the user who originally posted the image. It is also important to finish kicker comments with interesting questions that will encourage other viewers to speak up!

The following template will help you to structure interesting kicker comments:

In this image, I noticed _____
_____.
This was interesting to me because _____
_____.
I wonder if _____
_____
_____.

Pushback Comments:

Sometimes, you'll want to respond to something that another commenter has said in a Voicethread presentation. You may agree with something that they've said and want to add more elaboration. You may disagree with something they've said and want to challenge their thinking. These kinds of comments are called push-backs. In a pushback comment, it is important to quote the person who you are responding to so that other viewers will know what has caught your attention. It is also important to elaborate on your point of view and to disagree agreeably! Impolite people are never influential.

The following template will help you to structure interesting pushback comments:

_____ said _____ .
I (agree/disagree) with (him/her) because _____
_____
_____ .
I think that _____
_____
and am wondering if _____
_____
_____ .

Answering Comments:

Sometimes, you'll want to answer a question that another commenter has asked in a Voicethread presentation. Their question may have been directed right to you, or may have been asked to the group as a whole. Responding to questions is incredibly important in a Voicethread presentation because it lets viewers know that their ideas are valuable and interesting. Responding to questions helps to keep Voicethread conversations moving forward and interesting.

The following template will help you to structure interesting answering comments:

_____ asked _____ .
Really interesting question _____ . I think _____
_____
_____ .
I also think _____
_____ .
Do you agree with me? Looking forward to your reply!

Criteria	Needs Improvement	You're getting there	Rock Solid	Reading Rockstar
Voicethread Student Feedback Comment	• Comments seem to be completely out of place—unconnected to the selection. • Little evidence suggests that the student has thought deeply before commenting. • Feedback provided in comment doesn't offer productive guidance and advice to group.	• While comments demonstrate some obvious connection to the student and/or the selection, they demonstrate simple thinking. • Reader is not convinced that the student has thought deeply about the selection before commenting. • The comments added share information and provide feedback, but don't add to the overall value of the conversation. • The comments added share meaningful information, but they may repeat ideas already shared.	• All comments are clearly connected to the student and/or the selection. • Comments provide evidence that the student has considered the selection AND the other comments added to the conversation carefully before commenting. • The comments added encourage the conversation—asking questions, starting new strands, responding to other readers.	• All comments are clearly connected to the student and or the selection. • Comments are challenging and interesting to the reader—encouraging further study of the selection. • The comments added give meaningful feedback to readers and show an awareness of the conversation being had on the slide.

Previewing a Voicethread Presentation

Title of Presentation: _____

While previewing this Voicethread presentation, track your thinking on this handout. Remember that good Voicethreaders are always asking questions, making connections, forming opinions and gathering facts. Be sure to note specific places where you'd like to add comments or respond to other viewers. Consider starting your comments with phrases like: I notice, I wonder, I realized, You can relate this to, Although it seems, This reminds me of, I'm not sure that, If I were _____, I would _____ .

Image Title:	Image Title:	Image Title:
Image Description:	Image Description:	Image Description:
Your Initial Thoughts:	Your Initial Thoughts:	Your Initial Thoughts:
Possible Comments:	Possible Comments:	Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Image Title:

Image Description:

Your Initial Thoughts:

Possible Comments:

Tips for Leaving a Good Voicethread Comment:

To be an active participant in a Voicethread conversation, start by carefully reading the "starter comment" and then working your way through the comments that have been left by others. While viewing the comments that have been added by other users, you should:

Gather facts: Jot down things that are interesting and new to you.

Make Connections: Relate and compare things you are hearing to things you already know

Ask Questions: What about the comments that have already been made is confusing to you? What don't you understand? How will you find the answer? Remember that there will ALWAYS be questions in an active thinker's mind.

Give Opinions: Make judgments about what you are viewing and hearing. Do you agree? Do you disagree? Like? Dislike? Do you support or oppose anything that you have heard or seen?

Use the following sentence starters to shape your thoughts and comments while viewing or participating in Voicethread conversations:

- This reminds me of…
- This is similar to…
- I wonder…
- I realized…
- I noticed…
- You can relate this to…
- I'd like to know…
- I'm surprised that…
- If I were _____, I would _____
- If _____ then _____
- Although it seems…
- I'm not sure that…

While commenting, try to respond directly to other readers. Begin by quoting some part of the comment that you are responding to. Then, explain your own thinking in a few short sentences. Elaboration is important when you're trying to make a point. Finally, finish your comment with a question that other listeners can reply to.

REMEMBER NOT TO USE YOUR REAL NAME OR TO IDENTIFY YOUR SCHOOL/TOWN!

Reflecting on a Thread

Using the questions below as a guide, reflect on the comments made by your classmates in our current Voicethread conversation.

Highlight a comment from our Voicethread conversation that closely matches your own thinking. Why does this comment resonate with—or make sense to—you?

Highlight a comment from our Voicethread conversation that you respectfully disagree with. If you were to engage in a conversation with the commenter, what evidence/argument would you use to persuade them to change their point of view?

Highlight a comment from our Voicethread conversation that challenged your thinking in a good way and/or made you rethink one of your original ideas. What about the new comment was challenging? What are you going to do now that your original belief was challenged? Will you change your mind? Do more researching/thinking/talking with others?

Highlight the strand of conversation from our Voicethread conversation that was the most interesting or motivating to you. Which ideas would you like to have more time to talk about? Why? What new topics does this conversation make you want to study next?