

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: Johnathan Chase

Title of File: 20080617lyrics

Date: June 17, 2008

Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

DonnaB: Hello. I'm an ed-tech student, just observing for a class requirement. This is all new to me.

BJB2: welcome to the Tapped In community, Donna!

MaryWa: I am right there with you Donna! I'm new also.

DonnaB: Thanx I feel better now.

BJB2 smiles. We all start out as newbies, Donna! Have you taken any of the tours?

BJB2 . o O (Tips and Tricks on the calendar)

DonnaB: I didn't. I work the hours tours r available. My teacher helped me a little.

DonnaWW joined the room.

BJB2 nods. Hi, DonnaW. Welcome

BJB2 . o O (Donna A and Donna B?)

DonnaWW: Hello and thank you. New kid on the block so I want to be quite proper.

MaryWa: Hi Donna. My math session earlier was cancelled, so I'm with you in this one!

DonnaWW: Oh good! Someone from the 'neighborhood'!

JohnathanC joined the room.

BJB2: you've all logged in before the discussion leader so you're all very proper!

BJB2: Hi, John!

BJB2 . o O (John is our discussion leader)

JohnathanC: hah

DonnaWW: Nice to meet you.

JohnathanC: hi

BJB2: we usually start all Tapped In events with introductions...that ok with you, John?

JohnathanC: John Chase 7/8 social studies

JohnathanC: central NY

BJB2 chuckles...brevity is the soul of wit.

GraceS: Grace/Instructional Tech Coordinator and ISTE author

BJB2: Please let John know where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

GraceS: Michigan

MaryWa : Mary Wardlaw from Fredericksburg VA Currently enrolled in Masters program and seeking cert. in elem ed

DonnaWW: Donna Wallace/Masters of Ed. student seeking licensure to teach K-3.

BJB2: I'm in South Central Pennsylvania and am a retired teacher. Taught Communication

GraceS: was middle school reading/English teacher/now instructional tech coordinator for district/retiring soon

BJB2: congrats, Grace

GraceS smiles

BJB2 gives a drum roll...and turns the virtual floor over to John

JohnathanC: last session (April) there were questions about song resources for elementary teachers

BJB2: do you have some for us this month, John?

JohnathanC: I found some good sites, but first does anyone have any web resources to share involving the educational use of songs?

MaryWa : Sorry, no

GraceS: sorry no

DonnaWW: I don't have any sites but I did look at the ones on the link you provided.

BJB2: perhaps you might want to show this group how you've used songs with your classes?

JeffC: I hear that there are some songs on a site called youtube.

DonnaWW: I was impressed with the creativity of the students.

JohnathanC: This one is great too...

JohnathanC: <http://www.schoolhouserock.tv/>

DonnaWW: Schoolhouse Rock was a great TV show with great music. I can see how that would cross-over onto youtube.

MaryWa : Is this the same schoolhouse rock I remember from about 35 yrs ago?

JohnathanC: yes

JohnathanC: many topics

DonnaWW: I'm just a Bill on Capital Hill.

DonnaWW: Conjunction Junction what's your function?

DonnaB: What's a bill on capital hill

DonnaWW: Passing a bill on Capital Hill-relates to our govt. processes.

JohnathanC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEJL2Uuv-oQ>

DonnaWW: Do we click on that and go there during this discussion?

JohnathanC: Yes!

MaryWa : Not working for me. I'll have to check them out later.

JohnathanC: Here's another good resource...

DonnaB: another good resource?

JohnathanC: <http://www.songsforschools.com/index.html>

JohnathanC: I'll share some of my middle school activities now

JohnathanC: We recently completed a music video project

JohnathanC: here is the assignment, click on the link

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/howfar.htm>

DonnaWW: Having issue with the pasteboard thing. Any other helpful hints?

BJB2: click on send to pasteboard and highlight the url...use ctrl C to copy

GraceS: I'm getting in ok.

BJB2: then go to another open web window and use ctrl P to paste in the url

JohnathanC: any thoughts on the assignment before we proceed?

MaryWa: This seems very ambitious but I bet the kids have lots of fun doing it!

DonnaB: Very impressive

BJB2: . o O (you get what you expect from your students, Mary. John sets his expectations very high and they haven't let him down!)

JohnathanC: yes and the art teacher in my school introduces a simpler music video assignment using the same software program with 5th and 6th graders

JohnathanC: so they have some prior experience with the video making software...Sony Vegas Video

MaryWa: very cool, I'll have to check it out.

JohnathanC: Should we watch some of the finished projects?

MaryWa: yes

DonnaWW: Would love to.

JohnathanC: They work best with a PC and windows media player...high speed internet is a big help too!

JohnathanC: The next link will take you to my school homework page where I posted links to a sample video I created and also the students finished videos

JohnathanC: Scroll below the list of videos to read questions students were to think about as they created their projects

JohnathanC: They worked in teams of two

GraceS: do kids storyboard?

JohnathanC: they have for other assignments

JohnathanC: here we go

JohnathanC: <http://www.edmestoncentralschool.net/index.php?page=mr-chase>

GraceS: are there any free programs like Sony Vegas?

JohnathanC: the art teacher at my school says Microsoft has a video making program that is usually bundled with other programs

GraceS: do you mean Movie Maker?

JohnathanC: yes, he said it is very similar

JohnathanC: did the videos play ok?

GraceS: I looked at Cassie's project - yes. Do you feel that social studies is enhanced by music videos, students learn better or ???

DonnaB: I will look at them later, I was lost. I work w/ older adults like myself, no computers in my line of work.

JohnathanC: more motivated and it stimulates creativity

BJB2: I think it also enhances communication skills...and decoding skills

GraceS: do they perform better on tests? or do they have a greater interest in social studies due to creativity, music, multiple intelligences, etc?

JohnathanC: I also use songs to introduce writing activities to prepare them for state exams and DBQ Essays

GraceS: what about rapping social studies concepts/terms/vocab? do you do that?

JohnathanC: haven't tried that, here are some essays...

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/lewisandclark.htm>

GraceS: or core democratic values.....via song?

DonnaB: I can answer that. Everyone learns better with music and they retain music or

lyrical learning. I have students that don't know if it's night or day, not sure of their own last name but they can sing 'sentimental journey' word for word. Music taps into the emotions and that is more effective for learning and remembering

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/onedbq.htm>

GraceS: how much time do students spend making a video (such as Cassie and partner)? is the time spent only in school or outside school too? Do they know how to use the software prior to being in your class or do you teach it?

MaryWa: good questions

JohnathanC: They did a simpler video project in art.

MaryWa: Your students did an awesome job on the videos

JohnathanC: We spent three weeks of class time...15 classes 42 minutes each

JohnathanC: teams of two

GraceS: in a computer lab?

JohnathanC: they also used study hall time in some cases

JohnathanC: We have a lap top cart

JohnathanC: I signed it out for the month

GraceS: ok

JohnathanC: music is very powerful in the classroom

JohnathanC: it does create an emotional hook

MaryWa: it is very powerful

JohnathanC: stimulates the heart and mind

JohnathanC: helps students to feel and express themselves

GraceS: for sure. However, an argument from teachers in our district in Michigan would be, "I don't have time to spend 3 weeks on making videos when I have so much else to teach." How can that argument be overcome?

DonnaB: Lab is closing, thank-you for your assistance, BJB

DonnaB left the room (signed off).

MaryWa: we would have the same argument in VA

GraceS: Our 8th grade benchmarks, for example go from the Civil War thru 1914.....most teachers can barely get to 1900.

GraceS: from the Civil War

JohnathanC: good points

GraceS: Maybe your benchmarks are different. I would like to find a way though where teachers here could do the same thing but use less time. Maybe combine with ELA?

JohnathanC: One final resource to share...

JohnathanC: As always BJ, I have a new song as well

JohnathanC: Check it out everyone...

BJB2 listens eagerly

JohnathanC: I really like the song too!

JohnathanC: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

BJB2: sometimes you have to decide if you're teaching to the test or teaching students to learn how to learn

GraceS: agree

BJB2: and the learning process can't be shortened or sped up

GraceS: like the song!

GraceS: Thanks, John.....interesting!

JohnathanC: "people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"...Maya Angelou.

MaryWa: Thanks John I've enjoyed this hour.

JohnathanC: you're welcome

BJB2: Are you doing a session in July, John?

JohnathanC: sure

GraceS: goodnight, all

BJB2: then the next Lyrics discussion will be on July 15

JohnathanC: ok

JohnathanC: bye

BJB2: Thanks, John. Brilliant

BJB2 waves goodnight