

Title of Session: The Fun of Making and Using Videos

Moderator: Rushton Hurley

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Room: Next Vista for Learning Group

RushtonH: Everyone who is already here gets extra style points for arriving early.

KeikoSc: Welcome everybody

KeikoSc: I wonder if we can start with introduction

KeikoSc: there are some folks trying to get here.

KeikoSc: Welcome!

KeikoSc: please tell us where you are from, what subject...

DorethiaM: howdy

ChristinS4: 5th grade, NY

KeikoSc: Maybe what brought you here

SherryC1: I teach 8th grade English and Social Studies in Rapid City, SD

ShayneTr: Toronto, high school art and computers

KeikoSc: I am Keiko, I am helpdesk, so please PM me, if you need help.

KeikoSc: I teach Japanese in Texas

DoloresG: St. Louis MO Tech Coordinator at a small school

JoannaMM: I'm a student from SDSU in an EdTech course. I teach high school for The Charter School of San Diego

RitaSo: I'm from Philadelphia -- computer teacher K-5

KeikoSc: if the chat window goes too quickly, you may want to detach the window.

CaroleMc: Greetings, I'm at my home office desk in rainy Baranduda, small town outside of Wodonga in Australia. I am an independent elearning consultant with a passion for movies and storytelling.

RogerMG: Teacher, undergrad students in NorCal.

DianeKR: I teach intensive reading in high school, Orlando, FL area

KeikoSc: you can personal message me

KeikoSc: . o O (and I will help.)

KeikoSc: wonders if everybody introduced

VickiLM: I teach technology to freshman - senior education majors at a small college in central Indiana

SusanRic: I'm a Special Ed teacher with the SDCCD. I attended one of the Next Vista's workshops a while back and enjoyed it!

MidgeF: I'm an ed tech consultant, writer and genealogist living in Massachusetts

KeikoSc: wonders if Rushton should take over the floor

ElizabetCh: Student in Texas

HollyWe: Hello, Sorry late. I'm a doctoral student at UH and teach as adjunct at SHSU

RushtonH: watches as Keiko does a Harry Potter wave of the wand, expanding the front row for everyone to join there.

ChristinS4: I'm a Special Education Teacher too

RushtonH: Welcome to the NextVista.org session, The Fun of Making and Using Videos!

RushtonH: My name is Rushton Hurley, and I teach Japanese language and video production. I also run the nonprofit Next Vista for Learning (<http://nextvista.org>), which is working to help students and teachers around the globe. Please let others know about our site and its resources!

DeidraM: Spec. Ed. HS in Brooklyn, NY. ELA/Reading. Some Tech classes.

MarleneK: Teacher from Edmonton AB

RushtonH: So you know, from time to time I'll ask for a response to see how we're moving along; that way if I lose almost everyone to reruns or similar, I can better focus on the one or two I didn't put to sleep! When I do, please type up something; it doesn't have to be profound, and abbreviates are o.k. Get it? 8^)

MariaBa: Hello I'm Maria I'm a Paraprofessional for Resource

RushtonH: (keep the intros going - it's good for the session - really!)

RushtonH: Have you been to one of my presentations before, either here at Tapped In or elsewhere? (y/n)

MirandaR: I am a student from Edinburg TX.

ChristinS4: n

SherryC1: n

ShayneTr: n

JoannaMM: n

MidgeF: sorta

KeikoSc: n

SusanRic: y

DoloresG: y

RitaSo: no

HollyWe: n

ElizabetCh: no

MarleneK: n

DeidraM: n

VickiLM: n

MariaBa: No

RushtonH: It's cool to have so many folks here!

RushtonH: Speaking of cool things, learning is ideally a lot of fun, and hopefully you'll step away from your keyboard today/tonight with some fun tools ready to go. I suppose students having fun in the classroom means one of two things:

RushtonH: Kids are off task and are going to be difficult to get back on task (typically an issue of lack of structure), or

RushtonH: The activity/lesson has been structured well and the students have the opportunity to enhance both their learning and their confidence in their ability to learn.

DorethiaM: I have been online all day, multi tasking in between forums

RushtonH: Let's focus on this second type.

RushtonH smiles

RushtonH: A question for everyone - what percentage of the time would you guess the average student at your school is enjoying his or her learning?

JoannaMM: 40

DorethiaM: are there handouts for this session

CaroleMc: 50%

DoloresG: 50

HollyWe : not much

ChristinS4: 60

SusanRic: hmmm...

SherryC1 : 25

ShayneTr: 25

MarleneK: 30

ChristinS4: depends where he/she is

ElizabetCh: 20

RitaSo: 25

DeidraM: 20 percent... like milk (10 percent of lunch, 10 percent for gym)

ChristinS4 giggles

SusanRic: depends on the class...

MidgeF: I teach teachers who mostly don't enjoy learning

RushtonH: Quite the range!

JoannaMM: that's really sad

RushtonH: Looks like no one guessed 100%, which arguably isn't an appropriate goal. We all have to learn to buckle down and push ourselves from time to time, but this session isn't about that.

RushtonH: A quick story for the group. As I said, I teach Japanese language, and like a lot of language teachers I used to have students do skits in front of class.

RushtonH: The quality of what they came up with wasn't that great, and, honestly they mostly seemed to want to get it over with.

RushtonH: Except for the occasional boy thinking, "This is my chance to impress that girl who sits on the other side of class!" Mixed results, there.

RushtonH: However, when I started videotaping them, the quality of their presentations went up; they knew their friends in other classes would see them.

RushtonH: Still, they weren't that great.

RushtonH: But in 2000 or so, I started having them create the pieces using iMovie, and the quality of their work went through the roof.

RushtonH: It was so profound a difference that I knew I'd stumbled onto something important.

KeikoSc smiles

RushtonH: I even have a sample video from that year, which I'll show you today. It's not a streamed piece, so be patient with it, but with a good connection (and quicktime on your machine) it should come up in 10-15 seconds.

RushtonH: I'll paste the link below, and (like other video pieces we watch), please type "back" once you've watched it and return to this window.

RushtonH: Give it a look (via CTRL-click) at:
<http://nextvista.org/rhvideos/fourthyear.mov>

CaroleMc: its taking a little while to load for me

MariaBa: Nothing happens

RushtonH: Let's see how this goes - we've got a few pieces that will be a big part of the program a little later.

RushtonH: Who did see something?

HeatherBu: It is taking a while to load...just be patient with it.

KeikoSc: If there is an existing open window, it might be there

HollyWe : I did--very nice!!!

RogerMG: That was fun!

HeatherBu smiles

ChristinS4: Super

KeikoSc: and because it is video, it may be taking its time

KeikoSc: <http://nextvista.org/rhvideos/fourthyear.mov>

ElizabetCh: nothing yet

RitaSo: back

SusanRic: back!

JoannaMM: nothing came up for me

HeatherBu nods...It is streaming slowly

SherylM : back

VickiLM : It took a while but I did see it

CaroleMc: the movie has just begun for me

MarleneK: it's trying for me

RushtonH: For those not getting to see it, it's a pair of students introducing their Japanese class via video. We did this for students at a partner school in Japan.

KeikoSc nods

RushtonH: Even if the pieces don't stream for you, don't worry. There's loads to share with you.

ChristinS4: The students created & edited the movie?

RushtonH: They did - and on their own initiative put loads of time into it.

CaroleMc: nice movie to show the richness of a digital exploration of language

DeidraM: where did they get the music?

RushtonH: It was a popular piece - a cover of an ABBA song, I believe.

RushtonH: One of the more interesting aspects of this piece is that the two boys who made it, in terms of grades, were at the bottom of the class. Doing the video, though, gave them the opportunity to show they had learned, and that they had something to contribute, too.

RushtonH: Video really does have a special power for students - it's a medium that captures their attention, and when they learn to craft the pieces themselves, gives them a highly creative way of expressing themselves.

ChristinS4: Was there a rubric presented to the students beforehand... or were they given creative license?

RushtonH: And compared to making a presentation in front of a group, it's a comparatively safe medium. Too often we ask two complex things of our students at once - share your thoughts and speak to an audience. Those two don't have to be linked, especially as we're helping them build confidence in their ability to share ideas.

RushtonH: Creative license, for the most part!

RushtonH: I do give a few rules, such as...

RushtonH: No fight scenes, death, or blood. Good to keep from having to watch very bad martial arts sort-of-movies.

MariaBa: I can imagine

CaroleMc: I agree Rushton, digital movie creation with 'authentic voice' is a very powerful medium for learners to express themselves.

RushtonH: Definitely.

RushtonH: I haven't asked, by the way, if any of you are using video with students now. Are you?

DoloresG: back - it finally loaded

HollyWe : no, but very interested...

CaroleMc: Yes, I teach the digital storytelling process to teachers in Australia

ChristinS4: Podcasting was powerful... I can't wait to try vodcasting this year!

MariaBa: I mean kids now a day that's what they like technology they're better than us

RushtonH: (By the way, the other pieces we'll watch are shorter, and will download more quickly. I assume.)

VickiLM : We just added it to our assignment list last semester

DoloresG: I do a lot with still pictures which are then put into moviemaker

SherylM: Have used analog, but I want to work with digital, so I have been practicing with my daughter.

RushtonH: One thing we'll do today is talk about how to make a video without a camcorder! Feel free to gasp.

KeikoSc: Oh?

ChristinS4: We, the teachers, need to keep up with the technology... so our students don't have to power down when they come to school

RitaSo: Did some digital storytelling with still pictures

DianeKR gasp

BjB gasps

JoannaMM: AAAH!

DoloresG: sounds interesting

DeidraM: two students in my school wrote, directed, cast and film their own movie...they do not have a website so I can't give you the link... but they screened it on the last day of classes.... film called Benny's Comics.

MarleneK: cool

SusanRic: oh my!

SherylM: gasp, cool

MidgeF: and easy too..

HeatherBu grins

RushtonH: Only three gasps? I'll have to work harder.

RushtonH smiles

HollyWe : gasp

VickiLM: even my freshman classes found it easy when using Windows Movie Maker

SherryC1 gasps, too

DeidraM: we have a film dept in our school.

KeikoSc starts breathing again. Thank you Christine

RushtonH: For those who are using video, what works well, and what are the frustrations you encounter?

SherylM: My daughter used MovieMaker, and she told me it was helpful.

SherryC1 . o O (Feeling better about the gasps?)

CaroleMc: I am a passionate advocate for the use of free software such as Photo Story 3 and Movie Maker 2

RitaSo: My biggest problem was recording - very hard to find a quiet spot in an elementary school

DianeKR: access to consistent network is huge challenge in computer labs

ChristinS4: I've created videos with my camera, but I never edited them... I just uploaded them, mistakes & all

CaroleMc: The biggest challenge for teacher participants in my workshops is to prepare a meaningful script of a narrative

MarleneK: I've used imovie to make stills into little clips

ElizabetCh: Me too, don't know how to do the rest

JoannaMM: I haven't done any of this

BjB feels the narrative is an important feature also

MarleneK: I made a couple tours on Mapwing too, that was fun

CelesteR: Well, for me, it is very difficult to borrow equipment, even a projector! I was spoiled at my old school where I had everything, but changes in curriculum forced me to move. Now I am at a huge school with few resources.

MidgeF: In a movie I made doing the narrative took me twice as much time to get it timed right

CelesteR: I just invested in my own laptop with Movie maker and a projector=\$2500.00

SherylM: Yes, and for daughter's first one..matching the audio and video clips.

DianeKR: also not able to download very basic video programs on school network computers...still don't understand why

SherylM: I have only used Director, but who can afford that anymore?

MidgeF: They probably have it blocked.

DianeKR: not blocked, not given permissions...

CelesteR: What is Mapwing? [Ed. Note: <http://www.mapwing.com/>]

RushtonH: Loads of points from which people are coming to this - great!

RushtonH: For those who aren't (and those who are working on how to get their colleagues involved), one major barrier is perceived complexity. Video editing just plain sounds difficult, even though it isn't. I'll prove this today.

SherylM: Yes, what's up with that? Who is teaching anyway?

RushtonH: First, it's good to know what video editing is. Simply, you are arranging visuals (pictures, footage, and/or titles) with (or without) audio so that the whole thing tells some sort of a story.

RushtonH: So how do you tell your story using video? For any video, including slideshows, the most important part is planning. The first thing we'll do is choose photos, import them into the program (Movie Maker, Photo Story, iMovie, etc.), and choose the order you want them to appear.

KeikoSc listens

RushtonH: I'll give instructions for Windows Movie Maker (Movie Maker, or simply WMM), though the differences for the other programs I mentioned are not that substantial. By the way, you'll get all of this in the transcript, so given our setting, I suggest not trying to create one on the side as this goes along.

RushtonH: Quick word on the transcript - Tapped In members get them automatically. If you're here as a guest, let me know via e-mail (rh@nextvista.org), and I'll get a copy of the transcript to you.

RushtonH: First, get your pictures into the program. In Movie Maker, choose the 'import pictures' option and browse to where your photos are. Once they are in the upper middle workspace, drag these to the timeline. On a Mac, the easiest method is to make sure you've put your photos in iPhoto, and then from the Media tab in the lower right, you can choose the ones you'll use. This is a good time to remember that you should save your project as you go along.

RushtonH: Note the difference between 'project' on the one hand, and 'movie' or 'video' on the other. A 'project' is what you create, fashion, tweak, edit, and anguish over. The 'movie' is what you export once the project is ready, and that's almost certainly what you'd share with others. We'll see videos today that I created by exporting at different stages along the way.

RushtonH: Speaking of that, let's take a look at a piece that is just a collection of photos I chose and arranged. They are pictures from a very cool place in Mexico I visited last year - you'll learn about it as we go!

RushtonH: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow1.mov>

KeikoSc: no sound, just series of images?

ChristinS4: Great pics

ChristinS4: no sound?

RushtonH: Just pictures so far.

ElizabetCh: won

RushtonH: We have a winner!

ShayneTr: back - it's like a slideshow

RushtonH: Yes - we're going to ramp up this slideshow.

CaroleMc: great pictures Rushton, are they your Japanese students?

RushtonH: These actually have nothing to do with my Japanese teaching -

RushtonH: The program there is an amazing one, so we want to do a better job telling about them with the video.

RushtonH: As many of you noticed, it's all pictures.

RushtonH: and only pictures!

KeikoSc nods

RushtonH: The point of these programs, of course, is to do something more interesting than that. Let's add titles via the 'make titles or credits' option. In Movie Maker, it's one of the tasks on the left side of the screen. If you see folders instead, you may need to click on the 'tasks' button toward the top on the left. On a Mac, choose the Editing tab in the lower right and then Titles in the area in the upper right that appears.

SherylM: yes

RushtonH: The title tool is intuitive, and you can change the font, size, color, and alignment, as well as use some of their pre-set animations.

RushtonH: Here I've added an opening title and ending blurb:

RushtonH: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow2.mov>

CaroleMc: Back, and now see the effect that the titles have. I like this feature of MM2.

CelesteR: Back...but where you say "one of the tasks on the left side of the screen" where is that?

ChristinS4: Windows Movie Maker right? (brain a little cloudy - two year old entered the room)

RushtonH: The tasks are in Movie Maker - you can use it to build pieces yourself later using this transcript.

RushtonH: I put the titles at the beginning and end, but you can have them over existing photos, as when you want to give the name of the person in the picture

CaroleMc: Personally I like the way that Photo Story 3 adds the Ken Burns effect to still images, by panning and zooming to create simulated movement.

RushtonH: Carole - the motion in a video is very powerful - we'll talk more about that towards the end.

RushtonH: Very good stuff, I agree.

RushtonH: A good next step is to add transitions. The Movie Maker task is 'view video transitions', and you simply drag the one you like between the two pictures on the timeline. The iMovie option is Transitions in the upper right after selecting Editing in the lower right.

RushtonH: Here is how it looks with a variety of transitions:

RushtonH: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow3.mov>

RogerMG: I really like the effects .. fades, etc. Helps keep me focused.

RushtonH: Generally speaking, having a lot of different transitions looks a bit amateurish, but if it's fun, I say go with it.

RushtonH: The more serious the piece, the more you'd stick to just dissolves or maybe wipes (this is something to play with). Also remember you don't need a transition between every photo; sometimes the cut (i.e., no transition) works just fine.

RushtonH: One of the nicest things about making a slideshow is adding audio. In both Movie Maker and iMovie, you can record directly into the program, or you can add a song or pre-recorded piece. There's only one added audio track in Movie Maker, though, so if you want both a voice over and a song, you need to mix it in another program (the free program Audacity is a great choice). When using footage, you do have the option of recording your voice as you record the footage, of course. iMovie gives you two audio tracks, so you're fine.

VickiLM: I like the fade to black

DorethiaM: what about using videos and editing using a green or blue screen such as putting your students in the video do you have resources for that

RushtonH: It's easier than you think, but you have to have the right software to take advantage of it.

RushtonH: Out of the box, iMovie and Movie Maker don't do it. I've heard, though, that there is a plug-in that can let you do so with iMovie. That's all I know on that front.

RushtonH: For the piece we've been watching, I'll add an audio intro made by the director and founder of Project Amigo, Ted Rose. Give this one a look:

RushtonH: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow4.mov>

CelesteR: Doesn't iTunes do this for you easily too?

RushtonH: iTunes is a good tool, but Garage Band is the really useful one for creating an audio track for a movie (on a Mac).

MarleneK: I've never tried this, but it is possible to create the audio on Audacity and then import it to imovie?

RushtonH: Anyone who wants a full set of resources for all kinds of video projects can e-mail me after the session, and I'll send them your way (rh@nextvista.org).

VickiLM: yes, but why if you have GarageBand

RushtonH: Marlene - Yes, Audacity can do great things, though the learning curve for the more complex features is a bit steep.

MarleneK doesn't know why she keeps leaping around like that.

CelesteR: I am so excited about this...

RushtonH notes that no one has judged Marlene's character regarding the leaping.

RushtonH: So what do you do with video projects?

RushtonH: The library of my nonprofit, Next Vista for Learning (NextVista.org) has three collections, and I am hoping some of you might create pieces to add to them.

MarleneK leaps with excitement.

RushtonH: You can string together some pictures to explain a particular topic, such as photosynthesis, or converting fractions to decimals, or telling the history of a local spot (this collection is called Light Bulbs).

RushtonH: You can have your students tell about their community - show their neighborhood, tell what they learn in school, tell what they do on the weekends, and describe their hopes for the future (this collection is called Global Views).

RushtonH: You can use photos and audio recording to tell about someone who does good things for the community (this collection is called Seeing Service).

RushtonH: I'll give info on the three collections in a little more detail. All videos are about five minutes or less, by the way.

RushtonH: The first is Light Bulbs, which gathers academic presentations. These are introductions to topics by students and teachers. We believe they are another avenue for exploring what students learn, useful for students having difficulty, for teachers looking for ideas, and for parents wanting to help their children with their studies.

RushtonH: The second is Global Views, which we want to fill with descriptions of life and activities in schools and communities around the world. We think that if you are learning about some other part of the world and have the chance to see a person from there introduce it, the study will become more alive for you.

RushtonH: The third is Seeing Service, with profiles of those who in a big or small way make life better for others. One goal is to inspire young people to see the joy and meaning that comes from giving of one's time to improve one's community.

RushtonH: Who among you has seen the site before? (y/n, etc.)

CelesteR: Storyboarding to tell your views on Beowulf or Macbeth.

JoannaMM: n

DoloresG: n

ChristinS4: n

RushtonH: Celeste - that's a great use of the medium!

MarleneK: I think so

HollyWe : n

HelenK: I am a great fan of your site

VickiLM : I think I've seen it

RushtonH: Thanks, Helen! We're still a young effort, but have big plans for eliminating ignorance around the world. Might take a while. 8^)

MirandaR: n

CelesteR: I have not seen the site...and I have more ideas for the videos...BookTalks

RushtonH: We'll definitely need to get in touch via e-mail!

VickiLM : I had several pre-service teachers come up with interesting math lessons - how to figure the length of a bungee cord for a new jump site, how to figure the angles of a roller coaster

DavidWek thinks Rushton should focus on eliminating ignorance in certain US cities - especially in the mid-Atlantic region

RushtonH: Vicki - I want to get those on our site. Let's make sure to talk.

DavidWek: That sounds cool, Vicki

RushtonH: Hang in there, David!

RushtonH: Those who haven't, please do give it (<http://www.nextvista.org>) a look, though in the interest of time please wait until after the session to watch any of the videos. In the lower right of the home page, there is a link to the newsletter. Please do sign up - it's only a message or two a month (info, not discussion), and we never share the contact information. I use the list to tell about new videos that are added to the site, Tapped In sessions, conferences where I'll be presenting, and other opportunities.

RushtonH: A couple of quick things you might want to write me about if interested (rh@nextvista.org):

RushtonH: We have a new program called the Next Vista Distinguished Content Creator certification. Those who are producing good videos for our collections are eligible. Be the first on your block! 8^)

RushtonH: I am also still looking for a few schools to join an effort I will be making in early 2008 to go after some major grant money. All you'd need to do is create videos for the site and/or have your students do so, and get your principal's support for your effort.

RushtonH: None of this costs you anything, by the way. NextVista.org is funded by people who feel that what we are doing is important in order to freely bring good insights to students and teachers everywhere.

RushtonH: Any questions on anything we've covered?

MarleneK: any static about publicly showing kids work.. re privacy etc

KeikoSc looks around

ChristinS4: Thanks for a great presentation

SherylM: Pretty thorough

RushtonH: I do have release forms (and plenty of advice on that front) - stay in touch and I'll get them to you.

DoloresG: Thanks, Rushton, I think I will have some video for you, too.

JoannaMM: This has been a great experience for me. Thank you so much!

BjB: Rushton leads a regular discussion in Tapped In.

BjB : His next session will be in September.

ElizabetCh: very interesting

SherylM : thanx

BjB . o O (watch your calendars!)

RushtonH: As general advice, I'd never put a kid's face online without plenty of coverage (release forms and administration approval)

MarleneK: Excellent presentation... thank you

CelesteR: It's time?

VickiLM : I will pass this along to the pre-service teachers -- good incentive for them to work on quality projects.

CelesteR sad

RushtonH: Thanks again for coming to this session, and I hope I'll have the chance to work with you on projects in the coming semester!

RushtonH: Vicki - ask me later about the pre-service connection.

RushtonH: I've got some great things getting going with having teacher candidates creating pieces.

RushtonH: Please don't forget to sign up for our little save-the-world nonprofit e-newsletter!

RushtonH thinks this crowd could make amazing things happen for kids and teachers everywhere!

BjB . o O (and join this group room)

MirandaR: thanks Rushton

RushtonH: Thanks for coming!

KeikoSc: Great presentation, great participation.

BjB : great job, Rushton

HeatherBu: Thank you, Rushton.

RushtonH bows deeply

SusanR : Fabulous presentation!

VickiLM : Great session!

SusanRic: I think we are all very enthusiastic! Thanks Rushton!

ShayneTr: Thanks, Rushton. I'm adding digital video camera to my school wish list!

HollyWe : thank you so much, Rushton!

RushtonH: You are so welcome!

RushtonH: What a great group!

DeidraM: thank you

KeikoSc bows deeply to Rushton sensei