

Title of Session: Frazel Features - Photostory 3

Moderator: Midge Frazel

Title of File: 20060926frazelphotostory3

Date: September 26, 2006

Room: After School Online

BJB2: Welcome to today's Frazel Features!

MidgeF: Always makes me feel famous.

BJB2: we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions

BJB2: please tell Midge where you are located and what you hope to get from the discussion

MidgeF: I'm a consultant, author and genealogist who lives in Massachusetts

JenniferSL: I teach 3/4 in California. I'm new to tapped in, and visited different discussions. I don't know much yet about photostory!

StaceyCa: I'm a technology Trainer for a k-12 district in So Cal.

BJB2: I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and on helpdesk for Tapped In

MidgeF: Ok then, it's a girls night so far.

MidgeF: I found out about Photo Story from my famous friend, Kathy Schrock. She said, "Try, it you'll like it"

MidgeF: At that time, I was in a Master's program taking a video class, and learning Microsoft Movie Maker

BJB2: I got as far as downloading PhotoStory ages ago...probably not version 3

BJB2: and never had time to learn how to use it

MidgeF: Probably not but it is only version 3 right now.

MidgeF: Photo Story 3 is a free application for Windows XP users that creates digital presentations from a series of still digital photographs.

MidgeF: It is much easier to use than Movie Maker (but I love making movies)

MidgeF: It accepts most common photo File formats like JPEG, BMP, BMP and GIF. Most cameras create JPEGs.

MidgeF: Since there's not a big crowd here...

MidgeF: Let's go to an example of a movie created with Photo Story that I have posted at YouTube for easy access for today.

JenniferSL: Midge, that would be great.

MidgeF: I put a link to an example on a Web page of mine.

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/video.html>

MidgeF: Click on the link Fly to Ellis Island (it will open at the Web site YouTube)

MidgeF: You may have to copy and paste it to get it to work.

JenniferSL: Also, I'm on an ancient computer at school and I can't go to another site without crashing

BJB2: oh, how cool! another use of google earth

JenniferSL: so . . .

BJB2: I love the idea of using google earth

MidgeF: Anyway, if you can't see the video, just jot down the Web page and look at it later.

BJB2: the url will be in your transcript

MidgeF: I got the idea from a session at the Tapped In Festival.

BJB2 smiles. Perfect!

JenniferSL: Midge, can you give me an overview of photostory and the way it might me used in a classroom. I'm in this chat for one of my master's courses

MidgeF: Last year, I was going to write a book for teachers about Ellis Island and immigration

MidgeF: Sure

JenniferSL: Oooh

MidgeF: Let's go back to that first statement

MidgeF: Photo Story 3 is a free application for Windows XP users that creates digital presentations from a series of still digital photographs.

MidgeF: This means that you only need a few digital photos to make a "story" that is rendered into a video.

MidgeF: This software works through a series of screens.

MidgeF: Adding photos is easy with the Import Pictures screen.

JenniferSL: Easy is good.

JenniferSL: So any pictures I have on my computer, I can make into a video. Is it easy to edit?

MidgeF: It's easy if your kids can navigate to the folder the photos are in. My friend made a folder on the desktop, took a few photos of the school and put them on the Desktop in that folder

JenniferSL: That's a good idea.

MidgeF: Yes, but the secret to this software is that you first make a "project" and save it before you get to the last screen to make the video.

JenniferSL scratches head

MidgeF: The photos can be arranged in any order and the "pan and zoom" feature can be added automatically

MidgeF: All that means is that you have to remember to make the kids save the project they are creating before they make the movie. The movie is not easily altered but then they can go back and change it and render the movie over

JenniferSL: OK, that makes sense

MidgeF: You can add your own music or for easy non-copyright problems "make music" using the program.

MidgeF: One really big problem is....

MidgeF: It requires Windows XP

MidgeF: and there is NO spellcheck

MidgeF: On that page I sent you to, I wrote up a tutorial on how to make a portfolio with this program which was my ending project for my Masters.

JenniferSL: That's survivable

BJB2: interesting, Midge.

HeatherLM: are you all creating online portfolios and hard copy portfolios?

BJB2: I need to share that with the e-portfolio group

MidgeF: I thought it was pretty easy and I can see how teachers could have students making a digital story out of just a few photos.

MidgeF: My prof said I was very brave to try out a new piece of software and experiment with YouTube but I thought it was kinda cool and simple.

MidgeF: No, I only make things that can be posted to the Web.

MidgeF: I created a new version of my resume as my hard copy requirement but I still posted it online.

MidgeF: For somebody so very old, I am really a geek.

MidgeF: Let's say students took a series of photos about the weather, or a science experiment

MidgeF: I love making movies. Everybody in my family is calling me the next George Lucas.

MidgeF: I haven't posted them all as yet.

DavidWe smiles

MidgeF: I was impressed at the number of good tutorials out there on the Web for this application and it is still free.

JenniferSL: I'm missing the good stuff - another teacher is talking at me!

MidgeF: There will be a transcript Jen and you can always email me since you are using this for class.

JenniferSL: The perils of chatting at school - sorry.

MidgeF: I thought everyone multitasked!

MidgeF: Jennifer, you can even add narration (if you can stand the sound of your own voice)

MidgeF: How many of you have made a short movie and edited it?

MidgeF: Giving you the URL with my quick movie

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/video.html>

JenniferSL: I have not. I feel old school.

JenniferSL: I need to catch up on all these technology applications before my students leave me in the dust.

MidgeF: Well, it isn't hard but it is a bit time consuming. But very addictive.

MidgeF: 4th graders are a whiz at such stuff.

JenniferSL: Yes, and fearless.

MidgeF: You should never try to keep up with kids, just tackle what you can and see how it works for your curriculum

JenniferSL: I have been trying everything that I've learned in my master's courses - podcasts, blogs, webquest. A movie would be a good next step.

MidgeF: I am so addicted to movies I am making them smaller and putting them on my Dell Axim handheld so I can bore (or amaze) everyone I meet.

JenniferSL: I'm already amazed.

MidgeF: Actually, I have authored some WebQuests and that really is harder than making movies

MidgeF: I was a guest at a podcast this summer but not made one myself. I do have two blogs.

JenniferSL: Will you attach the URL's to your blogs?

MidgeF: I'm pretty busy for someone with no job, huh?

MidgeF: Sure, all you have to do is go to my main page and I link everything from there.

JenniferSL: great.

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net>

MidgeF: I am having my tenth year celebration for my first Web page this December.

MidgeF: It was harder than giving birth then

JenniferSL: Wow on both counts. I'm childless, but I have a good imagination.

MidgeF: One of my blogs is about educational applications of technology and the other is about gravestone. OK, its a hobby.

JenniferSL: I'm a history fan myself. What was the focus of your book on Ellis Island going to be?

MidgeF: I just have one and she's a teacher so everyday after school I listen to her joys and complaints

MidgeF: Well, the publisher and I disagreed so I negated the contract. I felt it had real purpose because it was about immigration in the past (not much different that today)

MidgeF: But, I am doing a presentation for my genealogy group since I spent so much time researching

JenniferSL: Interesting. My paternal great grandparents and maternal grandparents came through Ellis Island - I bet your presentation will be fascinating!

MidgeF: Publishers are not making money so they are getting worried about it.

MidgeF: I loved the social studies class I took as an elective and if I am feeling better tomorrow I am going to a history lecture.

JenniferSL: Back to the gravestones - history of?

MidgeF: My grandparents on my Dad's side came through Ellis and I never knew them.

MidgeF: People always ask about the gravestones. Oooh, I could make videos of them

MidgeF: I am taking photos of as many ancestors' graves as I can.

MidgeF: Almost all are in MA, CT and RI so we go grave hopping when we can afford the gas.

JenniferSL: "grave hopping" - I like it!

MidgeF: I wrote an article for the publishers magazine about using it as a project with kids.

MidgeF: I talk a lot... Does anyone have questions?

JenniferSL: Well Midge, thank you so much. I'm sorry I wasn't able to ask more specific questions about photostory. I really enjoyed talking to you though!

MidgeF: That's Ok Jennifer, you got some new ideas to talk about in your grad class and you can pass on my Web site.

JenniferSL: Well, I've got to go to my class, and I will pass on the Web site, and visit your blogs. Thank you!

MidgeF: You're welcome. Thanks for coming

BJB2: Jennifer, TI is great for collaboration...

BJB2: even when your grad class is over!

JenniferSL: Yes it is - I've learned a lot!

MidgeF: So, Jeff and BJ. It's time I passed out on the couch.

JenniferSL Jennifer waves farewell, and dashes out the door

BJB2: Thanks, Midge. Next Frazel Features is in November

MidgeF: Yes, Pilgrims..one of my favorite Turkey topic.

BJB2: should be a popular topic

MidgeF: Yes, and then Sue and I will do some wintery stuff in January.

MidgeF: OK well, goodnight and thanks for having me.