

Title of Session: Next Vista for Learning - Digital Pics and Cheap Mics

Moderator: Rushton Hurley

Title of File: 20081002nextvista

Date: October 2, 2008

Room: Next Vista for Education Group

BJB2: Rushton, would you like to start with introductions?

RushtonH: Sure.

BJB2: please tell Rushton where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

RushtonH: Renate, meet Kelli. Kelli, meet Renate. Houston, Texas, and Long Island, New York

KelliK: hello

RushtonH: I'm Rushton Hurley, in Santa Clara, California, where I teach Japanese language at a high school.

KelliK: that's cool.

RushtonH: It's a fun thing to teach. Helps them learn tact!

KelliK: I am a student teacher right now in 2nd...in Houston

RenateJ: I am a computer teacher...but stopped teaching 4 1/2 yrs. ago to have 2nd child. Looking to get back to teaching and learning any new tech stuff that is out there.

RushtonH: Are you guys ready to start?

KelliK: yes

RenateJ: ready

RushtonH: For an online meeting like this to work well, I want to make sure we are interacting productively - I'll ask questions from time to time, and please type in some kind of response, even if it is, "I don't know."

RushtonH: For the first question, is there something in particular you hope to get out of this session? (If not, you can just type 'nope'.)

RenateJ: nothing in particular

KelliK: yes. I was hoping to come up with some lesson ideas for my class on Mon.

RushtonH: I'll run us through some basics, then hit classroom project ideas. How does that sound?

KelliK: sounds good

RushtonH: For software, I'm going to talk about Windows Movie Maker a lot, which I'll abbreviate as WMM. It's the easiest video editing program I know of, and free as well (though it only works on XP and Vista). Those of you on Macs would likely be using iMovie, which works similarly, though the value for you will be more about the ideas than the specific commands.

RenateJ: Actually, I wouldn't mind having some ideas about videos that I could use for interviews.

KelliK: WMM is a fun program

RushtonH: Renate, do you mean making a video that would allow you to show what you know in an interview?

RenateJ: Yes, exactly!

RushtonH: Can do!

RenateJ: Excellent!

RushtonH: Kelli, are you building a technology portfolio for going after jobs?

KelliK: yes I am

RushtonH: Stay in touch with me, and I can help either of you.

KelliK: ok sounds good

RushtonH: So you know, you'll get the transcript of this session in an e-mail after we finish if you're a member of Tapped In. If you're not a member, just let me know, and I'll send you a copy. It's a good idea to become one, of course!

RenateJ: ok

RushtonH: I'll talk about the basics of slideshow videos, which is what I call a video made from photos.

RenateJ: I'm a member

KelliK: me too

RushtonH: I think you both are, yes.

RushtonH: WMM is very easy and has some exporting advantages - more on that later. The bottom line is that you can do this in a variety of programs.

RushtonH: For any video, including slideshows, the most important part is planning. You can make a video randomly, but it isn't likely to be very good. When doing this with students, I highly recommend you require them to make and turn in what's called a 'storyboard'. This is a plan which goes scene by scene (for our purposes, picture by picture), telling what the viewer would hear or read, and any notes about how you plan to do the piece.

RushtonH: I'm about to provide a link to a storyboard, and like any links we use, I'll need to know when people come back to the chatroom. When you finish looking at it and return, please type, "I'm back," or, "Back," or "Yo," or whatever works for you.

RushtonH: An example of a storyboard:

http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/storyboard_template.pdf

RushtonH: Were you able to see the file?

KelliK: ok I'm back but could not view it

RenateJ: yes...got it!

KelliK: but I know what you are talking about

RushtonH: Any thoughts? (You can just type, "No," or, "Not about this.")

RenateJ: I understand the storyboard concept

KelliK: I have never used it on kids...but I know I had fun doing it in my class

RushtonH: Let's take a quick look at the WMM interface:

<http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/WMM01.jpg>

RushtonH: The area on the left is (currently) all your 'tasks'. These are commands for importing media, etc. You can toggle between the tasks and the collections by clicking on the appropriate button at the top of the screen. The white area is the current collection with any media you've brought in. The black area on the right is the preview of the video as you build it. The blue area at the bottom is the timeline.

RushtonH: Any questions?

KelliK: nope

RenateJ: not yet

RushtonH: The first step is to choose your photos, and then choose the order you want them to appear. In WMM, choose the 'import pictures' option and browse to where your photos are. You can also open a folder next to WMM and drag them in:

<http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/WMM02.jpg>

RushtonH: Once selected, the photos will appear in the white area (the collection). Drag the photos to the timeline, and you have begun:

<http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/WMM03.jpg>

RushtonH: This is a good time to save the project.

RushtonH: This is also a good time to explain the difference between a project and a video. A project is the file for creating the video - not the video itself. Once you click on "Save to my computer" under "Finish Movie" (on the left), it guides you through creating the video file. That's what you'd want to show friends, colleagues, students, family, etc. - not the project.

RushtonH: Any questions?

KelliK: nope

RenateJ: no

RushtonH: With the pictures in the timeline, one could play the video in the preview screen. Here is what that would look like as a video file saved to the computer:

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

RushtonH: If you don't have Quicktime, then go here:

<http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow1.wmv>

RushtonH: Please let me know when you're back.

KelliK: back

RenateJ: back

RushtonH: I'll quickly explain Project Amigo, the program in Mexico I visited a couple of years ago and from where I got these pictures. They help poor children stay in school and build skills that will give them an edge in the job market near where they live, so they don't end up having to compete for low-skill jobs in Mexico City or Guadalajara. Very, very cool crowd.

RushtonH: Now, the point of these editing programs is to do something more interesting than what you've just seen. Let's add titles using the 'make titles or credits' option under 'Edit Movie' on the left.

RushtonH: For purposes of fitting this into an hour, I won't explain every last click for adding a title. Like any good program, to learn to do this, there is a certain amount of poking around and trying the different options to get a working feel for it.

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

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

RushtonH: No Quicktime: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow2.wmv>

RenateJ: back

KelliK: back

RushtonH: I put them 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.

RushtonH: A good next step is to add transitions using 'view video transitions'. This changes how each photo changes into the next, and does a lot to give the photos more of the feel of a video.

RushtonH: Here's a look at the video transitions window:
<http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/WMM04.jpg>

RushtonH: By dragging any of the blue transition options between two photos, WMM automatically adds the transition. Here is how it looks with a variety of transitions.

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

RenateJ: ok

RushtonH: No Quicktime: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow3.wmv>

KelliK: back

RushtonH: Any questions so far?

RenateJ: back

KelliK: nope

RenateJ: no...pretty clear so far

RushtonH: If you were actually making a video, this would be another good time to save, of course.

RushtonH: Generally speaking, having a lot of transitions looks a bit amateurish, but if it's fun, I say go with it. 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 doing what we're doing is the ability to add audio. In WMM, you can record directly into the program, or you can add a song or pre-recorded piece. The record button is a little microphone in the lower left above next to the magnifying glasses for zooming in and out on the timeline.

RushtonH: I'll add an intro made by the director and founder of Project Amigo, Ted Rose:

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

RushtonH: No Quicktime: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow4.wmv>

RushtonH: Were I making a piece now, I'd save the project.

KelliK: ok

RushtonH: As a reminder, for all of these, I am choosing 'save to my computer' after I have it edited as I wish. There are plenty of options in the software, and you can play with them to find the ones that work best for you.

RushtonH: At this point, you've learned enough to make nice videos about what your kids are doing, or getting them to show what they're learning.

RushtonH: So what are some of the biggest weakness of WMM? One is a lack of any motion beyond moving in and out. Programs like Photo Story 3, a free download from Microsoft (<http://tinyurl.com/4f869>), can help you add motion to the pictures (this one is XP and Vista only; iMovie on the Mac side can do this as well). I'd suggest downloading the program after we finish today and seeing what you think.

RushtonH: Another weakness is only being able to export to Windows Media files. Quicktime gives you high quality, but larger file sizes (sometimes much larger). The good news is that there are numerous free services online for converting files, such as Zamzar.com, which I used with these.

RushtonH: As a finish to the portion of the session about making the videos, see what you think of the following piece. It's one I made from the perspective of being a volunteer at Project Amigo, and involves some more complex editing, but not much more

complex!

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

RushtonH: No Quicktime: <http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PAVolunteer.wmv>

KelliK: back

RushtonH: What did you think of the piece?

KelliK: it was good

RushtonH: Can you imagine showing something like that to 2nd graders? I'd guess there are a few things they could pull from it, no?

KelliK: ya there probably are

RushtonH: Not having motion doesn't make your piece hopeless, of course, but if done with purpose it can enhance it. Remember that having motion (like anything else), generally shouldn't be random – start with or move to someone's face or eyes, or something else that is naturally a focus of the photo.

RushtonH: Kelli, what have you done with your students so far involving multimedia or technology?

KelliK: well since its not my classroom not too much...using the overhead, the cd player (singing songs) but we go to the computer lab every Monday...I'm trying to come up with something they can do there

RushtonH: Let's brainstorm a bit on that front.

KelliK: maybe in kidspiration or microsoft office stuff

RenateJ: Kelli, which software is available for your second graders?

RushtonH: What kinds of things are they learning right now?

KelliK: microsoft office stuff, photostory I think, kidspiration

KelliK: we are getting ready to start continents next week

RushtonH: I mean non-technology stuff. Continents, eh?

RushtonH: Hmm.

KelliK: characters, traits, always working with poems

RushtonH: How about getting a picture related to each continent and having them record their voices telling what they see in Photo Story?

KelliK: I would love to do that but we don't have microphones for the kids

RushtonH: As in, there aren't any, or they're not allowed to use them?

KelliK: we have some for the announcements (they broadcast on tv) but that is it

RushtonH: For Photo Story, you could pick up a \$5 microphone at Fry's, or Radio Shack, or wherever...

RenateJ: Kelli, Can you use Kidspiration to have the kids work in groups...each group with one continent....show them how to use Kidspiration and have them write a few facts about the continent?

KelliK: that might work better

RushtonH: Definitely easier.

KelliK: yes!

RenateJ: Then, use PhotoStory to continue the project....with some of the facts??

RushtonH: How do you see Kidspiration adding to their learning?

RenateJ: I only use Kidspiration/Inspiration to brainstorm and gather facts and then I use other programs to enhance their learning.

KelliK: they would have to match the picture with the continent

RushtonH: I like Renate's approach to use the tools incrementally.

KelliK: me too

RushtonH: If they end up creating something visual, you could post what they do on Photobucket or YouTube or wherever, and the parents would be able to see it.

KelliK: they would like that

RushtonH: Imagine showing them various pictures, they use Kidspiration to settle on a sentence per group member to say something about it. Record it in Photo Story (you'd only need one microphone), export what happens, and bam! Something for the parents online.

KelliK: nice!

RenateJ: Before PhotoStory....way back when....I would use Kidspiration and then PowerPoint.

RushtonH: Do you know how to get good copyright-friendly pictures for something like this?

KelliK: yes that is also a great option

RenateJ: I like the idea of parents seeing the final product

KelliK: I used to have a website but I lost it

KelliK: freefotos or something like that

RushtonH: Here's my suggestion: <http://search.creativecommons.org> and click on the Flickr tab.

RushtonH: When you search for something, put it in the green at the top.

KelliK: ok

RushtonH: After you get results, right-click and open them in different tabs so you don't lose your search results (they're in a frame).

RushtonH: To really do it right, you'd want to get the name of the picture and the photographer and include it in credits at the end (not hard).

RenateJ: cool...I haven't searched there before

KelliK: me either

RushtonH: Flickr has over two BILLION photos in it, so the chances of finding something good are very good.

RushtonH: One tip:

RushtonH: When you go to an individual photo's page in Flickr, there's usually a little icon above it called "all sizes". Get the biggest one you can in order not to have it pixelate in the video.

KelliK: ok

RushtonH: Give it a try and let me know how it goes.

KelliK: ok will do

RenateJ: ok

RushtonH: Renate, we should look at the possibility of your making a video teaching some concept, submitting it to NextVista.org, and then you can say to a potential employer that you have content accepted at an educational nonprofit's multimedia library.

RenateJ: I would love that!

RushtonH: What kinds of things are you most interested in?

RenateJ: Well....that is a tough one....I have taught grades K-8, and have done staff development for teachers of all grades and really like it all. I would like to use some of the new technology, or expound on some of the new Web 2.0 tools...not sure which topic though.

RushtonH: What about on a personal level? What was your favorite thing to teach?

RenateJ: 5 years ago...probably PowerPoint from a technology standpoint. I also enjoyed writing curriculum for grades 3-5...it was basically ELA related stuff.

RenateJ: I am not narrowing this down, am I?

RushtonH: How familiar are you with Google Docs? Getting to know Docs, Spreadsheets, and Presentations would be one avenue for picking something more cutting edge than Power Point.

RushtonH: Kelli, are you back? Let me know when you are - I have another suggestion if you go with the plan we talked about above.

RenateJ: I've been looking at Google docs at bit lately...don't know it really well, but am familiar with it.

RenateJ: This summer I looked at SmartBoard, PhotoStory, Wikis.

RushtonH: One cool move might be to do a presentation that would allow you to share a link of you telling some sort of story.

RenateJ: Like that idea!

KelliK: smart boards are way fun

RenateJ: they are

RushtonH: If you know Photo Story, you could use the Google presentation to show

how to plan a project, which would show your ability to help others learn to use technology effectively.

RenateJ: Would this be similar to using Jing?

RushtonH: It would be a piece that is available for others to use, as opposed to screen capture as a tool.

RenateJ: ok

RushtonH: The key is to have a story to tell - it could be about a place you know or have visited, and I'd be happy to help you with the script if you like.

RenateJ: I did a PhotoStory this summer of my son (7) sailing. Would that qualify? or should I keep it less personal?

RenateJ: More educational?

RushtonH: It depends on how you tell about it. If it looks like a vacation video, that's probably not as strong for a job possibility as you could do. If you can shape the piece so that it teaches something about boats, you're on.

RushtonH: Well y'all (I'm a native Texan, by the way), I'd like to wind down a bit early, as I'm curious about the VP debate.

KelliK: ok me too

BJB2: thanks, Rushton.

RushtonH: Those of you who don't get the NextVista newsletter (Kelli), I'd be happy to add you to the list. You can do so at our site (<http://www.nextvista.org/newsletter/>), or send me an e-mail (rh@nextvista.org) with your name, e-mail address, and location (city, state/province, and country), and I'll get you set up. There are only one or two messages a month, and we certainly don't share the info with anyone else! Also, please make sure my e-mail (rh@nextvista.org) is not channeled to your bulk/junk mail (web-based addresses such as gmail, yahoo, or hotmail tend to work best).

RenateJ: Thanks for your help Rushton

KelliK: thank you

BJB2: Thanks, Renate and Kelli for your participation

RushtonH: Glad you guys joined!

KelliK: you're welcome

StephaniM joined the room.

BJB2: the next Next Vista will be November 6

KelliK: ok

RushtonH: Hi Stephani - we're just winding down, but I can get the info to you if you like.

RenateJ: You're welcome...talk next time!

StephaniM: Hi, is it over?

RushtonH: Take care, Renate!

BJB2 nods sadly to Stephani

KelliK: bye

RushtonH: Bye, Kelli!

RushtonH: Stephani, are you a teacher?

StephaniM: Thanks, bye

RenateJ left the room (signed off).

KelliK left the room (signed off).

StephaniM: Yes, I saw you speak at NECC

RushtonH: Cool - do you get my newsletter?

StephaniM: yes, could I ask a few questions of you

RushtonH: Certainly! I'm thinking in terms of e-mailing you the outline so you know what we covered.

RushtonH: What's on your mind?

StephaniM: 1. Do you know how to save videos from online? All videos are blocked at school, to save bandwidth

RushtonH: From which site?

RushtonH: YouTube?

StephaniM: well lets say youtube, there is a great twilight zone about WWII

RushtonH: For YouTube, I use Zamzar.com. Enter the URL in the first field (after clicking URL), tell it which format you want it in, add your e-mail, and you're good to go.

RushtonH: You're in Arizona, yes?

StephaniM: yes, does it matter?

RushtonH: Nope, but I wanted to make sure I was sending the e-mail to the right person. It's on its way now.

RushtonH: Is there something else I can help you with before I go?

StephaniM: 2. What about music and copyright laws. If a kid or myself owns the music, can they use it in their school video, not to post or sell?

RushtonH: If it's copyrighted, you can use it in class (not posted) under Fair Use provisions. That involves only some portion of the piece, typically.

RushtonH: How to deal with that also depends on what you're wanting to accomplish. Is it just music behind a video or presentation, or something else?

StephaniM: Thanks for the info, I got tied up and did not get logged in as soon as I should have. I think the fair use policy is very vague, I think I can use 10% of a song. I appreciate it.

RushtonH: No problem. Anything else?

StephaniM: Nope, bye

RushtonH: Take care!