

Title of Session: Next Vista for Learning - Free Cool Stuff!

Moderator: Rushton Hurley

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Room: Next Vista for Learning Group

RushtonH: Hi Eda - where are you? I'm in Santa Clara, California

EdaA: hi Raleigh NC

RushtonH: Cool! Are you a veteran of or newbie to Tapped In?

EdaA: new

EdaA smiles

RushtonH: Welcome. Do you teach?

EdaA: my first session

EdaA: yes

EdaA: ESL

BJB2: I'm assuming that you will get at least one or two others from Eda's class today, Rushton

RushtonH: The more the merrier.

EdaA: maybe not

EdaA: this assignment's deadline has changed

RushtonH: Eda, what level of ESL do you teach? High school, elementary, adult?

EdaA: Rushton

BJB2: you made a good choice of topics, Eda. Rushton has some great ideas for you

EdaA: I taught all of them

EdaA: right now elementary

EdaA: college

EdaA: are you all teachers?

RushtonH: Good deal. I'll introduce you to something I think is quite amazing, but we'll also leave time to explore specific things you are interested in if you wish.

BJB2: all members of Tapped In are educators

RushtonH: I teach Japanese language at a high school.

EdaA: it is really nice

RushtonH: BJ, are you ready to roll?

EdaA: yes

BJB2: I'll announce, Rushton, but let's wait one more minute, ok?

RushtonH: Willing to wait a minute.

RushtonH: Eda, be thinking of anything about which you are really wanting to learn more - if I can help, I will.

EdaA: Is Japanese your first or second language?

RushtonH: Second. Third, if you count my bad Spanish.

EdaA: the subject of this session was interesting

RushtonH: Hopefully still is, and will be!

EdaA: yes

RushtonH: Eda, I'm big into free tools, and make presentations on all sorts of stuff at conferences around the country.

EdaA: OK

RushtonH: That's not meant as an, "Oooh, what a guy!" but rather that I love to share this stuff.

BJB2 smiles.

EdaA: I like to learn more about effective and free teaching tools for ELLs

EdaA: Thx for sharing

RushtonH: Will do.

EdaA: WE need it

RushtonH: Is there something in particular you are looking for?

EdaA: printable ready to use worksheets

BJB2: Rushton, do you follow Larry Ferlazzo on twitter or read his blog?

EdaA: or technological tools

RushtonH: Give me just a second on the worksheet front - one of my students at Long Island University sent something early this week that might be perfect. I'll be right back.

EdaA: for instance pronunciation activities for my students

EdaA: OK

RushtonH: Got it - <http://www.superteacherworksheets.com/>

EdaA: thx

RushtonH: Not perfect for pronunciation, perhaps, but probably some useful pieces in there.

EdaA: thx

BJB2: Eda, have you seen [www.makebeliefscomix.com?](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/) They have printables. The site is a comic strip generator that is fun for language learners.

EdaA: I'd like to check the site quickly

EdaA: no

RushtonH: Here's another: <http://www.esl-galaxy.com/>

RushtonH: This one may have something good - it mentions phonetics:
<http://www.usingenglish.com/lesson-plans.html>

BJB2: Eda, all the urls will be in your transcript that is automatically emailed to you when you log out

RushtonH: Eda, feel free to give those a quick look, then we'll talk about something more when you get back.

EdaA: it is just great

EdaA: because I was trying to note them down

EdaA: OK let me see them quickly

RushtonH: Once you're back, let us know, and we'll move forward. You're the entire class, so it's all about you! 8^)

EdaA: wow

EdaA: I consider myself lucky

EdaA: those r great websites

EdaA: I'll certainly use them

RushtonH: There's much more to the web than pre-made worksheets, though.

EdaA: sure

RushtonH: What kind of technology do you have available in your classroom?

EdaA: I'd like to learn new things

EdaA: computers

EdaA: headset

EdaA: dvd

EdaA: tv

RushtonH: Can you project from a computer?

EdaA: unfortunately not

RushtonH: Do you know how to create web pages?

EdaA: yes

RushtonH: What do you use?

EdaA: just learned

EdaA: I'm taking a great tech class

EdaA: we have to learn all sorts of recent technology

RushtonH: What are your favorite items from the class that they've introduced?

EdaA: database

EdaA: blogs

EdaA: to be honest

EdaA: everything is new to me in this class

EdaA: and I'm so willing to learn

EdaA: so far I learned those

RushtonH: Completely okay. It's great to find things that fascinate you, and that you can use to get your students engaged.

ShayneTr joined the room.

EdaA: yes

RushtonH: Are you using PCs or Macs with your students?

EdaA: PC

RushtonH: Are you on a PC now?

EdaA: I've only one computer in my class

EdaA: PC

RushtonH: You can still use it to do some great projects.

EdaA: like?

RushtonH: Does it have a microphone attached or built in?

EdaA: doesn't have it

EdaA: but I can find one

RushtonH: It probably has a microphone jack, though, and there are almost surely some

cheap ones around. Do you have one you can use right now?

BJB2: Eda, subscribe to Larry Ferlazzo's blog at <http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/>

EdaA: I've it now

EdaA: it is built in

BJB2 waves hi to Shayne

RushtonH: Cool. Have you ever used Sound Recorder?

RushtonH: HI Shayne!

ShayneTr: Hi! Sorry I'm late!

RushtonH: Not a problem. I was just asking Eda about a program called Sound Recorder.

EdaA: I don't know that program

EdaA: actually we were learning it in class

EdaA: is it related to PowerPoint's?

RushtonH: Okay. Try this - go to Start - All Programs - Accessories - Entertainment - Sound Recorder, and click on the program.

RushtonH: It can be related, as you can use it to create sound files you would use in Power Point.

RushtonH: Shayne, where are you, by the way? I'm in California, BJ is in Pennsylvania, and Eda is in North Carolina. Jeff is in the State of Confusion.

RushtonH: Eda, were you able to find the program?

EdaA: it is just great

EdaA: yes

RushtonH: Good deal. It's very simple, but when a student knows that he or she will be recorded, they work much harder to prepare.

EdaA: that's true

EdaA: can I also use it to create digital stories?

ShayneTr: I'm up in Toronto, Canada... (state of Confusion, cute!)

EdaA: hi Shayne

ShayneTr: Hi!

RushtonH: I'm going to provide a link to another program that might seem a bit intimidating at first, but will allow you to do all kinds of digital stories. It's called Audacity: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> (free download)

ShayneTr: Audacity is great!

RushtonH: I have a tutorial on it at (wait a moment while I find that)...

BJB2: Eda, Rushton has some great digital story info...and there is a Art of Storytelling group in Tapped In that has a ton of resources.

RushtonH: <http://sites.google.com/site/educationalvideoliu/Home/mixing-audio-using-freeware>

RushtonH: It's designed for some students in a class I help teach, but there's plenty there for you, too.

RushtonH: Shayne, have you used Audacity?

RushtonH: with students, I mean.

EdaA: those are all great sources

RushtonH: We're just getting started. 8^)

EdaA: Do they teach us how to use these step by step

ShayneTr: Not yet. I was all set to try Voicethread and discovered that to use it with ability to manage student accounts you'd have to pay. I've used Audacity at home thought, so maybe we could find another way to post artwork (I teach art and computers) and add recorded reflections.

EdaA: I mean within the site

RushtonH: The tutorial above (the one that starts with sites.google....) will.

EdaA: OK thx

RushtonH: Shayne, you might take a look at some videos we have on my nonprofit's

site: <http://www.nextvista.org/collection/light-bulbs/visual-arts/>

RushtonH: Eda, I'll paint a picture of where I think would be cool to go with this, and give you as many pointers to exploring it as I can.

EdaA: I don't think I understood it

EdaA: Sorry

RushtonH: For students, it can be especially fun to record their voices over pictures. The pictures can be of themselves, or their families, or things they like, or anything. There is a wonderfully simple tool for doing this called Photo Story 3. (more coming)

RushtonH: The download site, as well as suggestions for how to use it with your students, are here: <http://sites.google.com/site/educationalvideoliu/Home/motion-with-images>

EdaA: When you said you'd paint a picture, did you mean using photostory?

RushtonH: Actually, I simply meant I'll describe something to you. My apologies for the confusion!

EdaA: NP

EdaA: I'm sorry

RushtonH: No worries!

EdaA: I'm new to technology

RushtonH: But you're having fun, which is the key thing. That's how to learn more!

EdaA: just started to learn and it went too quickly

EdaA: I'm determined

RushtonH: Then you will be successful.

EdaA: thx

EdaA: hoping so

EdaA: I've a question

RushtonH: That first program you saw - Sound Recorder. That's a good one to use to

get kids introducing themselves, or talking about what they like. You save the sound files and can play it for their parents if you want.

EdaA: if you noticed my typing is not as fast as yours

RushtonH: Your speed is just fine.

RushtonH: What's your question?

EdaA: I was wondering if you could recommend a site for that

EdaA: like how to type faster

RushtonH: Yes - give me one moment.

BJB2 smiles...just participate in more TI discussions, Eda!

EdaA: I've never taken an official typing class

EdaA smiles

RushtonH: <http://typingtest.com/>

EdaA: will try

RushtonH: This is a site you can use to challenge yourself to get better. I'd say, though, that you're already faster than many of the people I have taught in these sessions. I think you're doing great!

BJB2: and don't forget that you're learning how to follow text chat as you try to type....both have their own learning curves

RushtonH: True.

BJB2 . o O (that's where transcripts really come in handy)

RushtonH: Exactly.

EdaA: thx

RushtonH: Shayne, have you been looking for something specific? I'm happy to help if I can.

EdaA: is this site free?

EdaA: Typing one?

RushtonH: I think so.

RushtonH: Eda, is your school still in session, or have you finished your term?

EdaA: it is traditional calendar

EdaA: but my new school will be YR

RushtonH: Wow - that's exciting! When do you start?

EdaA: I've already added this site to my favorites many thx

EdaA: July 1

RushtonH: Will that be elementary students, too?

ShayneTr: I was looking for something that will allow my students to record reflections on their art instead of always writing them.

EdaA: t u

ShayneTr: But I don't want to pay for Voice Threads. I work at a very poor school.

RushtonH: Shayne, what kind of equipment do you have available to you and your students?

ShayneTr: Maybe PhotoStory can be adapted?

EdaA: This site is really great!

ShayneTr: I have a whole computer lab - pc's - and can bring in some microphones.

RushtonH: Photo Story is a wonderful tool, and would allow them to do exactly what you're describing.

EdaA: I didn't expect to learn so many things at once

ShayneTr: OK, then I'll check that out!

RushtonH: Are you able to install a new program?

ShayneTr: You bet - I'm the tech person in the school.

RushtonH: Eda, that's part of the fun! Don't worry about there being too much - just grab what sounds interesting and you're fine.

RushtonH: Shayne, perfect. Using Photo Story, Audacity, and Movie Maker, you can do all sorts of great media projects.

EdaA: sounds good

RushtonH: Eda, tell me a bit about the new school where you will work from July.

EdaA: in NC

EdaA: to be honest

ShayneTr: Thank you! I have some playing to do this summer...

EdaA: I enjoyed a lot when working with adult ELLs

RushtonH: So you'll be teaching adults at the new school?

EdaA: that is why I'm having my masters

EdaA: no

EdaA: and yes

EdaA: part time adults

RushtonH: Got it.

EdaA: full time kids

EdaA: Kids are very lovely too

EdaA: Yet, adults understand when you really do a good job

RushtonH: I did a project with an ESL teacher in Florida a while back, and her students made simple movies telling about where they are from. This is something you might want to build up to, if it interests you.

RushtonH: Here's an example: <http://www.nextvista.org/merida/>

EdaA: of course

RushtonH: Shayne, we should work on some project ideas this summer. I'd love to expand what we have in the visual arts section of our site. Would you be interested?

EdaA: It is just awesome!!

RushtonH: Fun, yes? If you'll stay in touch with me, I'd be happy to help you learn how to do the same things.

EdaA: How can I learn to make the best digital stories?

BJB2 chuckles..in 25 words or less, Rushton!

RushtonH: The first thing to know is that you need to play, play, play. Keep trying the different software applications (free ones), and you'll figure out what you like to do.

RushtonH: Just under 25, no?

BJB2 winks. Just teasing, Eda....Rushton's advice is perfect....it's more fun to learn when you're playing

RushtonH: Eda, how are you enjoying this session so far?

EdaA: will try

ShayneTr: Sorry, I've lost track (or missed it). Which site? Yes, I can help with ideas.

EdaA: just great

RushtonH: Good deal. I'd like to invite you both to sign up for the newsletter I do.

RushtonH: Here's the site: <http://www.nextvista.org/newsletter/>

EdaA: BJB--are u a teacher too

RushtonH: I send out info on new videos we've collected, as well as cool free tools I've run across.

RushtonH: Once I have your e-mail, I'll also send you a file with loads of free resources, each with a short explanation.

EdaA: Rushton how did u gather all these info?

RushtonH: Play, play, play.

BJB2 . o O (he plays a lot!)

RushtonH laughs

JeffC: BJB just retired, Eda

RushtonH: I've been doing this for years.

RushtonH: BJ, you just retired in the last few weeks?

BJB2: I retired in June 2008

EdaA: thx Jeff--after retirement must be a free time to tease people

EdaA: congrats

RushtonH laughs

EdaA: do you have my e-mail to send these info

BJB2: I think retiring lets you have more fun ;-)

BJB2 . o O (although you end up being busier than when you worked full time!)

RushtonH: Not yet. That link (<http://nextvista.org/newsletter>) will allow you to get it to me.

EdaA: I'm sure there are many things to entertain u

RushtonH: It's time to wind up - is there anything else that either of you want to explore a bit before we finish?

EdaA: ok will follow the link

EdaA: tesekkurler

RushtonH: We are so bilingue.

EdaA: was in Turkish

BJB2: Thanks, Rushton! Looking forward to seeing you at NECC!

RushtonH: Tesekkurler?

EdaA: means thx

ShayneTr: I'm sorry if I'm being difficult, but how does next vista differ from Teacher Tube or other video how-to sites?

RushtonH: Cool - which language?

ShayneTr: (todah - Hebrew)

EdaA: Danke -German

RushtonH: Hi Shayne - no problem at all. The big differences are that we don't have ads, allow people to download the videos directly from the page, enforce through screening that everything is for a student audience, and are generally much more hip.

RushtonH: Ours is an educational save-the-world thing. Not trying to make a zillion dollars, like the other sites.

ShayneTr: And who makes the videos? Some seem to be students, some teachers.

RushtonH: Anyone who wants to share an insight that can help students learn, teachers vary their presentations, or parents review what they're trying to help their kids learn.

ShayneTr: I do try to use videos in class and embed in my class wiki

EdaA: Rushton..I'd like to thank you. Many thanks for all those great tips

RushtonH: Very cool. When students know that the audience is larger than just their peers, they do better work.

RushtonH: Eda, you are very welcome. I'll send you some more stuff when you sign up for the newsletter (you may already have done so).

EdaA: I registered to receive this session via e-mail THX you all!

RushtonH: Just got it! I'll get something out to you tonight.

BJB2 waves bye and heads for the Teaching Teachers discussion

EdaA: for me?

RushtonH: Yes!

EdaA: OK can't wait

ShayneTr: OK, I've also signed up. Thank you!

EdaA: bye BJ

RushtonH: Take care!

ShayneTr: Bye

EdaA: bye