**Final Project: Dinosaur Reports**

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Introduction: As I began working on my final project for Visual Literacy I focused on a plan that would immediately be useful in my 3rd grade classroom. My final decision was to create a PowerPoint that informed and introduced the students to the expectations for their Dinosaur Reports. Every year I have an overall theme that is used in the classroom surroundings as well as projects throughout the year. This year it is DINOSAURS! I will use this project for several objectives that need to be met in the following areas: science, technology, research skills, reading and writing.

Process: I choose PowerPoint because I recently had a short introduction to its use in the classroom during an in-service. I like the black background because it feels mysterious and exciting compared to a preset theme color or just white. The Jurassic font (used in the movie title: Jurassic Park) lends itself to the overall theme and may be familiar to most of the students. I’m not sure that a font alone can initiate their background knowledge, but it’s worth a try! The image on slide one seems bold at first, but I choose it because I wanted to make a statement that dinosaurs are exciting and interesting. The remaining images support the main idea of the text on each page (slide); humans and dinosaurs did not exist together, dinosaur extinction came at a time of disturbance of the Earth’s systems, paleontologist are real people that work with fossils, and the images we have of dinosaurs are our best guesses to what they may have looked like based on findings. I choose to read the text with the visuals because of the high level of unfamiliar vocabulary associated with the topic.

Reflection: As I was working of my final project, I revisited some of the projects done throughout the course. In particular, the woodprint activity affected me greatly and comes to mind when I think about how to stimulate the students thinking. My plan is to view the slideshow without words or text, visuals only, and discuss what the students think the message is for each slide. In doing so, I will strategically use some of the difficult vocabulary (in yellow print) during our discussions. We will then view the slideshow with text and voice. Each student is expected to create one slide that will follow the format of slide 5. I will print out a copy of this slide for the students to use as a reference to the information they need to obtain. I really like the idea of showing our “Dinosaur Slideshow” during Open House or P/T Conferences in the Fall. (Thanks Dr. Eberle!) This course has been enlightening and I am encouraged to take it back to the classroom!

Credits:

Slide One

TRex Image – http://www.mountfitchetcastle.com/dinosaur-encounter.htm

Trex Sound Effect - <http://amazingsounds.iespana.es/aseanimal.htm>

Jurassic Park Font - <http://www.fontspace.com/category/Jurassic+Park>

Slide Two:

Information - http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/

Dinosaurs Image - http://www.fullandfree.info/wp-content/uploads/2007/06/dino-screensaver.jpg

Slide Three:

Information - http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/

Extinction Image - http://www.rainbowdolphin.com/dinosaurs/facts\_extinction.htm

Slide Four:

Information - http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/

Paleontologist Image - http://www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmag/bk\_issue/2004/septoct/cmnh.html

Slide Five:

Dinosaur Image - http://mrsfagone.com/dinosaurs.html