



Volume 22
January 2009

Tech-Talk

Dixon-Style

Stowers' Technology Newsletter

Created by
SAD, ET



REMINDER

Due to the fact that everyone will be watching the Inauguration & Festivities, there will be no "Tech-Talk" on Tuesday this week.

Web2.0 Tool #6:

Tag Galaxy

Tag Galaxy is a word tool. Type in a tag (word) and words that are associated with that tag (word) pops up on the "galaxy". Once the associated words are there, click on one of them.

Example: type in "winter"; then click on the associated word "cold". Click on the "planet" for "cold" and you will get literally thousands of pictures related to "cold". Click on a picture to get a caption about that picture.

Great tool for writing projects.

Websites:

<http://www.taggalaxy.com/>

ClassTool #3:

3-Circle Venn Diagram

A Venn diagram is a classic way of getting students to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between three key events, concepts or people.

Characteristics shared in common go in the central area; those shared by just two factors go in the area where those two circles overlap; characteristics possessed by just one go in the outer area of that circle where it does not overlap the other two.

Sample Lesson Plan:

Get students to identify three key people / events / concepts they have become familiar with over the course of the term / year. Students then fill in their Venn diagram as they see fit.

They could work in pairs on this if they wished, then the finished work could be saved to a network so that the teacher can display each one in turn on an interactive whiteboard to generate discussion.

Examples of Venn Diagrams:

http://classtools.net/my/venn17492dogs_lizards_humans.htm

http://classtools.net/my/venn43785what_is_geography.htm

http://classtools.net/main_area/load_save/files/widgets/venn69169.htm

Website:

http://classtools.net/main_area/template_loader.php?venn





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Web2.0 Tool #7:

animoto

**YOUR CLASS WILL NEVER
BE THE SAME!**

Animoto produces TV-quality music videos using your photos in just minutes.

It's so simple to do too. Choose a song as the soundtrack to your video and Animoto will analyze every nuance of it. Producing a totally unique video each time, no two videos are ever the same.

Sharing them is a cinch as well. Add them to your MySpace & Facebook profiles, on your blog, e-mail them to friends, put them up on YouTube or download them onto your computer.

Two kinds of Videos:

Animoto Shorts are 30-seconds in length and **free** for everyone. You can produce, remix, and share as many as you'd like.

Full-length videos can be as long as a whole song and are downloadable.

How to get started:

www.animoto.com

Click "Create Video" from the set of buttons in the upper left to begin. Your first decision will be whether to make an **Animoto Short** (a 30-second video) or a **full-length video** (extended length video). Video shorts are always free for everyone and you can make as many as you want).

Animoto will then walk you through the three steps required to create a video. 1) Get your images, 2) Get music, and 3) Finalize with details.

What you need:

You need a web browser (which you have already if you're reading this), Javascript turned on in your browser and Flash 9. You can check your version [here](#).

Other than that, you'll need pictures, of course, to make a video.

FAQ:

<http://animoto.com/help/faq>

Examples (on the Stowers website):

<http://www.am.dodea.edu/Benning/Stowers/Projects/HaddixRudolf.html>

<http://www.am.dodea.edu/Benning/Stowers/Schoolinfo/meetstaff.html>

<http://www.am.dodea.edu/Benning/Stowers/PhotoEvents/OpenHouse.html>

<http://www.am.dodea.edu/Benning/Stowers/PhotoEvents/First%20Day%202008-09.html>

---until next week