Conference Presentation Script

Lisa Prokopchak

Old Dominion University

LIBS 672

Dr. Sue Kimmel

July 29, 2022

Digital Conference Presentation Script

**(1st Slide)** Hello!  My name is Lisa Prokopchak and I am a student at Old Dominion University.  I am in the Master’s Degree program for Library and Information Studies with a concentration in school librarianship.  I decided to go back to school about a year ago.  I have always loved learning and I wanted to get into the field of librarianship because I feel that librarians have such a unique way of being able to reach their students.  We get to use technology and books and other things to help them achieve their greatness.  Who doesn’t love books?  And who doesn’t love technology?  Once I graduate, I feel I’ll have the best of both worlds - I’ll be able to interact with students in a library setting, which I will consider like my own classroom.  I will also be able to use books, different references, and technology to implement these things in the library.  Today, I am excited to talk to you about some of the different types of technology that I have learned during my studies and ways that you can incorporate them into your classroom experience.  I believe that learning in the classroom is an experience and we, as the teachers, need to make sure that our students have positive experiences in the classroom.  In an idyllic world, everyday would involve active engagement, no behavior issues and less testing and data meetings. :)  However, we all know that might not happen, but how about a classroom that incorporates technology that can help with the active engagement?  How about a classroom that uses technology to help reduce behavior problems by trying to engage that problem student who would rather irritate his or her neighbor than write a paper?  So, take a walk with me through five examples of technology and you will hopefully learn and get ideas about how you can incorporate them in your classroom and library. **(2:00 minutes)**

**(2nd Slide)** The first piece of technology I would like to talk about today is Voki.  According to their website, Voki is a tool that is used by teachers and educators that can enhance instruction, engagement, and lesson comprehension (Voki.com).  This sounds like an amazing tool just from the website!  With Voki, students and teachers have the opportunity to create videos through avatars and recorded sound bites for lessons and projects.  It’s a different option to use in making a lesson be active and engaging for everyone through videos.

**(Click)** The great thing about Voki is that you can customize it to fit your needs.  Let’s say you are teaching about historical figures.  You can choose avatars for your video from different time periods, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thurgood Marshall, or the goddess Athena.  You, or the students, can create a video and use the likeness of that historical person to say a famous quote or speech that the figure might have actually said.  Picture Abraham Lincoln and a student adding the recording of the Gettysburg address.  You can also choose avatars for current figures, like Britney Spears and Queen Elizabeth.  How engaging for the students would it be for Queen Elizabeth to introduce a lesson on British history or government?  **(Click)**

Here is a screenshot I took of what the Voki creator looks like.  You see the drop-down menu to change avatars and add backgrounds.  It’s a user-friendly set up for you and your students.

**(Click)** Here is a short clip of a video I made of Rosa Parks.  The quote is hers but the voice is mine. **(Play video clip)**

Now, if you feel your voice wouldn’t match up to the likeness of the avatar, they do give options for different accents and voices to use that could say your dialogue.  You could get even fancier and upload sound bits of their own voices and add to it but just check your copyright laws. :)  There are also different animals and symbols for you or the students to create videos with.  There are math symbols that could be used to explain math formulas.  Making a video using an addition sign talking can be an engaging way to have the students understand the concept of adding.  Using animals speaking can be a fun way to incorporate Voki to extend or engage in a science lesson.  Using, for example, a talking koala can be used to start a lesson on the topic of conservation or Austrailia.

**(Click)** One of the Standards of Learning for fifth grade English in Communication and Multimodal Literacies states that a “student will create multimodal presentations that effectively communicate ideas” (SOL, 5.2).  Voki can meet this standard through having discussions through Voki.  By utilizing the “hangout” portion of Voki, you can create different ways to have students communicate their ideas to you.  One example to accomplish this is by a book club.  The website even gives a tutorial on how to set up this type of “hangout”.  Depending on the topic or question you create, a student can then create a post or reply using their choice of avatar and voice to communicate that answer or opinion.  This can be used for open dialogue between peers that is monitored by you, the teacher.  It can be a fun way to have open-ended discussions and answers to questions utilizing technology.

**(Click)** Besides introducing lessons or creating interactions between classmates through lessons, Voki can also be used to create presentations.  You as the teacher can create a presentation for the class.  By embedding an avatar that you create for a lesson, your students can see your creativity as well.  Also available to use in your video is the ability to embed links to other teaching resources or documents that you can upload from your own computer.  The presentations can be used like a slide that is interactive for you during the presentation or you can create a presentation that the students are able to access and walk themselves through.   Having this platform be used as a presentation platform that you use can show students what things they can create.  We all love user-friendly tools and websites and I think that you will find this with Voki.

Also think about this when using Voki for discussions…by using this mode of technology, students may feel more comfortable sharing their responses.  For students who are shy or have anxiety about sharing things in front of people in large, and even small settings, having their voices be heard through a different means may help them grow confidence.  Once they grow comfortable with the avatar, they might be more inclined to share with their peers and class without using this tool.  This tool can be a stepping stone to further public speaking opportunities. **(5:30 minutes)**

**(3rd Slide)** The second piece of technology that I would like to share with you today is Wix.com.  Wix is a website builder and can be used to make a simple website that you can use to incorporate lessons and activities into your classroom.  Wix offers templates that can be used in various ways.  Because they are a website generator, there are all kinds of templates to choose from.  Some are geared toward education, others are set up for business.  Whatever the template you choose, you can customize it to your liking.  You can also create something from scratch if you are feeling brave. :)

**(Click)** It advertises that it is user-friendly and that you don’t have to know how “to code” to be able to create a website (wix.com).  The website does make it simple to create a website by being able to click and drag things into the space that you want.  You don’t see the “coding” language through this website generator.  It’s as easy as uploading and inserting your designs for your purposes.

Building a website about yourself is a great way to share who you are with your students.  You can create a simple one-page website that highlights your likes, your background and anything else you would like to share with your students.  For high school-aged students, having them create a webpage to share this kind of information about themselves to their peers and teachers is another way to incorporate technology and to showcase their creativity.

**(Click)** Having students create a Wix webpage can be an alternative to a written paper and is also a way to incorporate this piece of technology into the classroom.  In US history, for example, one of the Virginia SOL’s is to be able to “apply social science skills to understand World War II by describing and locating the major battles and key leaders” of Pacific and European areas (VUS.11, b and c).  For students to achieve this SOL, they can create a website page about this topic.  To be able to insert pictures, facts, data, and other information about this topic can help them engage in the learning process.  The students might be more apt to enjoy the learning process by using a different type of media other than writing a paper or an essay on the topic.  They can also utilize research skills to find different videos and materials or different websites about the topic that they could link to their website.  It is a different method of achieving a learning goal than using the traditional pencil and paper mode.

**(Click)** Creating and setting up a Wix website as a platform for a continuing class discussion is another way to utilize this piece of technology.  To be able to create a platform that students can access after school hours can be an added resource to you.  High schoolers may be up at all hours of the night after school.  For them to be able to answer a post in their own time, under the parameters of a deadline, might make them feel they are in control of the assignment and be more willing to complete it.  Also, being able to use the technology might make the assignment seem less daunting to them.  High school students have grown up being tech savvy.  It’s part of their generation and, in a sense, what they are used to and enjoy.  Posting things on a website will seem like a dream to some compared to other types of assignments they might have to do.  Integrating what they know into the learning process can help them be engaged in your lessons.

**(Click)** Here is another screenshot I took.  It is a template from the Wix website.  Yes, Wix does the hard work and has made templates so all we have to do is find one we like, and insert the information.  This template shows a teacher who has made one for her class that has weekly assignments and check ins.  You could, of course, change things around and choose a different color palette but it’s all here for you.  Remember, Wix is user-friendly so don’t recreate the wheel.  Take advantage of the templates that they offer. **(4:00 minutes)**

**(4th Slide)** The third piece of technology I would like to share with you is Canva.  Canva is “an online design and publishing tool with a mission to empower everyone in the world to design anything and publish anywhere” (Canva.com).  Again, this is a big statement from a company and it is promising a lot to its customers.  And from my experience with this website, it does deliver. :)  There are numerous ways to use Canva and it really can help in all sorts of different ways in the classroom.

One way to utilize Canva is to make infographics **(Click)**.   Infographics are a way to visually engage students and give them the facts and data that you would like them to know.  They are graphics with information…hence the name “infographics” :).  Students can create an infographic using Canva’s provided templates or they could start from scratch.  Infographics are a great idea to use when creating “how to” instructions for younger students.  Some examples are “how to study successfully”, “how to write a letter”, or “how to log into the Chromebook”.  They can also be used as a visual-aids for learning different processes.  According to Virginia’s SOL 4.4 for fourth grade science, “The student will investigate and understand basic plant anatomy and life processes” including photosynthesis (4.4, c).  What a great way to incorporate an infographic with the process of photosynthesis in visual form for the students!

**(Click)**Here is an infographic I created using a template on Canva to promote online safety for students.  There are numerous possibilities for infographic to visually aid in teaching concepts and information that you would like for students to learn.  My only suggestion and advice with infographics and Canva is go in with a plan.  There are so many templates, once you see them, you might go down different rabbit holes you might never thought of.  So be forewarned!  But if you have plan, Canva is a great tool for infographics.

**(Click)** Another way to utilize Canva is to make newsletters for your classroom.  You can customize and add all sorts of graphics and designs for a personalized newsletter for your classroom.  Canva has numerous templates for newsletters as well.  This website is another user-friendly website to be able to click and drag whatever pictures or photos you want to add to your newsletter.  Instead of just using a plain, boring Google doc or Word document, Canva can make the layout more visually appealing which will make it more engaging to read!  Why waste your time making something that’s ordinary and no one will read when you can utilize Canva?  People may then be coming up to you to talk about your awesome newsletters and ask you how you created this amazing resource. :)

**(Click)** The last thing I’d like to share about Canva, even though there are many more possibilities for projects that you can make with this tool, is that Canva offers the ability to create photo books, T-shirts, stickers, cards, and mugs.  Canva lets you make these types of projects that can be printed and are considered “custom designs” from their website.  What you design can be specifically targeted to your needs and wants.  While these things would cost money to print, I wanted to tell you about this feature because it is something that could be used for class projects.  If you were to create special T-shirts for your class or for special events, and have the funds to do it, Canva gives you this option.  Making mugs for special occasions may also be something that interests you.  It’s just another great tool and option that Canva makes available to you. **(3:45 minutes)**

**(5th Slide)** The fourth piece of technology that I would like to share with you is using Wordart.com to create word clouds.  Word clouds can be used as a way to incorporate technology in your lessons while focusing on different topics.

**(Click)** This is another tool that can be used to have students introduce themselves at the beginning of the semester or school year.  By having the student create a word cloud with their name and adjectives that describe their personality or words of things they are interested in is a way for fellow students to read about their classmates without the need for icebreaker games that can be torture for the introvert in the class. :)  The word cloud can be put on display at their desks or any other personalized space they might have in the classroom.  You could help kindergarteners make this and have it displayed in the area that they hang their book bags.

**(Click)** A way to incorporate word clouds into your lessons is by using them to emphasis vocabulary and comprehensive vocabulary from reading texts.  For second graders, SOL 2.7 states that students “will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts” which will include “describe characters, setting, and plot events in fiction and poetry” (VA SOL).  This can be achieved with a word cloud by having you, the teacher, guide the students in a theme of your choice.  Say, you would like them to name the characters a story.  Not only can the students name each character, then they can add characteristics or features of those characters.  Using a word cloud for one character can be an option too.  Take Goldilocks from the classic story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.  Students could create a word cloud for Goldilocks that could include the words, “blonde”, “girl”, “tired”, “curious”, “hungry”, and so on.  By using Wordart.com, they would type in the words they would use and then choose an appropriate cloud “appearance” for their creation.  Maybe an alien for a science fiction story that you used in a lesson or a dog shape for a story that has dogs as characters.  They can connect the designs of the cloud with the content in the cloud.

**(Click)** Just as characters can be described, other story elements can be used to create a word cloud.  Creating a word cloud of multiple stories or types of books is a way to incorporate this piece of technology into the classroom.  This tool can be used as an end of a lesson or a unit activity.  Using the tool to describe text features of non-fiction texts can be a way for students to create a word cloud and it can be used as an example to show what they know about the vocabulary words that the students learned in a unit.  Using the word cloud can help demonstrate their knowledge of a lesson or a unit through this creative way. Words like “glossary”, “index”, “headings” are all types of words that could be used to make a word cloud.  Word clouds are not just for fictional texts!  You could even create a document where the student had to give you the word for the definition that you provided.  For example: “What is the text feature that is usually at the end of a book that gives you definitions of selected words from the text?”  The student would answer, “glossary” and then would put their answer into a word cloud.  It can be used to show you what they have learned while having them create something on their own.

**(Click)** Here is one I did on using text features from a non-fiction book and it is shaped as a penguin.  This would be an example of a word cloud that could go along with a lesson using a non-fiction book on penguins.  This tool is simple and easy to use and can be customized to what you need.  Just remember to be creative and have fun in the process. **(3:45 minutes)**

**(6th Slide)** The fifth and final piece of technology that I want to discuss with you to help you see the potential for including technology into your classroom is the use of QR codes.  QR means “quick response” (kapersky.com) and these codes can be used with websites, documents, assignments, or pretty much whatever you might need to have linked to something.  By utilizing QR codes, you can have extended activities embedded into your assignments.  There are QR code generators that make it easy for you to create the codes.  QRCodeMonkey.com is a free website that lets you create a QR code and link it whatever you would like to link it to.  One thing you can link a QR code to is an event.

**(Click)** This can be a great asset to include in a monthly or weekly newsletter that you use to communicate with parents of your students.  By inserting a QR code linked to a planned event, once the parent or guardian scans the QR code, it will open the calendar app on their phone and place that event in the calendar.  It’s an instant placement of important dates for you that you need families to know.  This is can be used for events like picture day, book fair dates, PTA meetings, and any other event that you can think of.  Maybe you want parents and guardians to know about a field trip.  Using a QR code for them to scan so they will have this date and activity will help them be organized too.  By using this piece technology for the parents who are on their phones all the time anyways, it’s just another way to connect to them and make sure they have important information.

**(Click)** Another way that I think you could incorporate a QR codes into your classroom life is through linking it to a virtual calming room.  The demands at school as well as home life can sometimes take its toll on a student’s mental health and well-being.  Life can be hard and because of this, we can see behavior that can escalate negatively in the classroom.  There are times when a student needs a “time-out” from class or a “time-out” for themselves to regroup their emotions.  Having a quiet corner or a quiet spot where they can access a virtual calming room, can help you continue to teach in class with mildly having to intervene.  It can be something, through a QR code that students can access themselves once you teach them the procedure to follow.  SOL 3.3 states that a “student will promote health and safety at school and at home” and “demonstrate effective strategies for expressing and managing emotions, which may include physical activity, talking about feelings, reading, or creative expressions such as writing, art, music, and dance” (SOL 3.3, m).  Using an online calming room can be a strategy that can be used to reach this goal.  Once you have a QR code set up, you can link it to different calming tools available online.  CNUSD Virtual Calming Room is one I like to use.  It was developed by Corona-Norco United School Division in California by the school counselors during the COVID-19 pandemic.  It has different calming tools and strategies that include guided meditations, coloring pages, yoga, and visual relaxation pages to go to (CNUSD, 2020).  By utilizing such resources, a student can open up the camera app on a device, scan a QR code, and have multiple resources at their fingertips to help them regulate their emotions and mental health.  Once they have used this tool through the QR code and have calmed down and regrouped, they can rejoin the group and continue on in the activities of the classroom.

**(Click)** Another way to use a QR code is to utilize virtual field trips.  These became very popular during the COVID-19 pandemic because no one could go anywhere!  However, these virtual field trips are still an available resource to go to and experience different places.  Regardless if there is a pandemic or not, some of these places are places that most students will not go to during their childhood.  What an amazing experience your students can have if, in the classroom, you are learning about the Greek and Roman mythology and then be able to travel to Greece or to Rome to view the Colosseum!  If you are learning about art, you can visit the Lourve in France and see, through the virtual field trip, the artwork you have been studying.  There are many possibilities of how you can utilize virtual field trips.  By connecting it with the QR code, you control where a student can travel and how it can be beneficial to the lesson you are teaching. **(4:30 minutes)**

**(7th Slide)** On this slide, I would like you to scan one of these QR codes.  One will link to the virtual calming room for you to explore and choose an activity.  And the other QR code you can scan for a virtual field trip and pick a destination to explore.  All you have to do is open the camera app on your phone and aim it at the QR code.  The phone will then open up your web browser and take you to the url link that is embedded in the QR code.  Also, before you scan, notice the differences between the two QR codes on the slides.  Using the QRCode Monkey generator, I was able to manipulate the coloring and the “eyes” of the QR code.  The “eyes” are the squares in the corners of the code.  So even those you can change and color code if you wanted to.  Please take some time to explore this option. **(1 minute to read slide, 5 minutes to explore)**

**(8th Slide)** I hope today I have given you some ideas for you to use in your classroom.  Bill Gates once said, “Technology is just a tool.  In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.”  There is so many different types of technology out there and it can be a daunting task to find the best technology for you and your classroom and then be able to apply it to achieve the best learning experience.  With these ideas, I hope you can become more confident in incorporating technology in your classroom and see the how it can open up more learning possibilities so students can achieve their best selves.  But always know that the teacher is the facilitator to the greatness that a student can achieve in the classroom.  Technology cannot replace the need for you and what you do to help achieve this.  Think of technology as just an extension of your input and influence in the lives of your students.  Thank you! **(1:45 minutes)**

**Total Time: 30 minutes**