

Year 8 Design and Technology

- Digital Media Assignment -

Purpose of Assignment

This assignment will help you to become more familiar with digital media and to understand the benefits and disadvantages of it in the world today.

Syllabus Points to be Assessed

Students learn about

- The purpose of digital media such as...
 - E-music
 - Digital newspaper
 - Interactive TV
 - Games
- Types of digital media products such as...
 - Video production

Students learn to

- Define digital media
- Assess the effectiveness of a range of digital media products
- Produce samples of work for a range of data types
- Describe how data types combine to produce and enhance a digital media product
- Critically analyse a range of digital media products based on identified evaluation criteria.

Expectations

1. For this assignment, both you and your parents/guardians will be involved.
2. You will also be part of a group of three students, who will also have their parents involved in helping them.
3. Everyone (all 3 students in each group, as well as the parents/guardians of these 3 students) is expected to be actively involved in this assignment.

Due Date

This assignment will be checked 2 weeks after it is given out. Your teacher will keep a record of how your group has progressed.

The final due date for this assignment is 4 weeks after it has been given out.

Instructions

This assignment will be completed in a number of parts. Some parts are much smaller and quicker than others.

Part One - Set up a blog and enter your reflection

1. All students and parents/guardians are to set up their own, individual Wordpress weblog. Access Wordpress at <http://www.wordpress.com/>. You are required to enter an email address. If you do not have an email address, you can sign up for a free one at <http://www.hotmail.com/>.
2. As a first post in your new weblog, enter a reflection (of no more than 400 words) about your experiences with information technology, specifically multimedia.

Part Two - Sign up at del.icio.us and share your blog

1. Go to <http://del.icio.us> (this is the actual website address - there are no .com's or www!)
2. Save your wordpress blog address (<http://YOURNAME.wordpress.com>) as your first bookmark.
3. Find the del.icio.us account names of everyone in your group. This will be the 3 students and all parents/guardians. Add everyone to your network in del.icio.us so that you can all find each others Wordpress weblogs.
4. Make a very short comment on any one other person's blog in your group.
5. One group member should also provide their del.icio.us account name to the teacher, who can then view the del.icio.us accounts of the other group members.

Part Three - Create a Wiki for your group

1. Go to the website <http://www.pbwiki.com>. One person from your group should create a wiki here and add the wiki address to their del.icio.us account for all in the group to see.
2. Everyone in the group should be given the password to the wiki. It is important that this password stays in the group and is not easy for anyone to guess.

Part Four - Q and A

1. Students in the group are to think of 3 questions relating to their parents' experience of multimedia.
2. Each student should post these questions to the blogs of each parent/guardian in the group.
3. The parents should then answer 3 of the 9 questions they are asked on their blog in a fair amount of detail. (Approximately 300 words for each answer).
4. At the same time, these steps should also be taken in reverse. That is, parents should think of questions to ask students and the students should answer these.

Part Five - Learn about and how to use YouTube

1. Go to the website <http://www.youtube.com> and find some short videos about multimedia.
2. **IMPORTANT** Videos can be large in file size and may use a lot of your Internet plan downloads, or your internet connection speed may not be able to download them in a suitable amount of time. It is recommended that you use your local library if this is the case.

3. After you have viewed some YouTube videos, place one video each on your own page of the wiki. (Teach each other how to use pbWiki and how to create your own pages.)
4. Your videos should appear 'embedded' into your wiki page. If you experience problems embedding the video, ensure that you have at least copied the YouTube videos into your del.icio.us account.

Part Six - Create a video

1. This part can be done individually, each student and parent(s)/guardian(s) or as the entire group together - whatever is easiest for everyone in the group.
2. You are to create a video where everyone takes a part in talking about and demonstrating one type of multimedia. These types of multimedia include:
 - a. Electronic Newspapers
 - b. The Internet
 - c. Online videos
 - d. Television
 - e. Music
 - f. Online music
 - g. Online games
 - h. Plus any other types of multimedia you may find.
3. In your video presentation, you should not sit there and talk, but perhaps be near a computer and demonstrate how this multimedia is used by people.
4. Each person should be on the video for approximately 5 minutes.
5. This can be done using a video camera (one will be made available to borrow from the school if needed) or using a webcam.

Part Seven - Share your video

1. After you have created your video, you may wish to edit it slightly.
 - a. This may involve cutting out certain parts, or maybe adding overlaying text.
 - b. If you wish to edit your video, it is recommended that you use **Microsoft Windows Movie Maker**, which is included with all copies of Microsoft Windows XP and Microsoft Windows Vista.
2. Your video should be saved in any of the following formats:
 - a. Video.MPG
 - b. Video.MPEG
 - c. Video.WMV
 - d. Video.AVI
3. If your video is not in one of the formats described in part 2 above, convert it using Windows Movie Maker.
4. You can now upload your video to YouTube! Go to the YouTube website and follow the steps for uploading the video.
5. After uploading your video, embed it in your wiki on the front page.
6. Everyone should view the final video individually and comment on each group members' blogs about what they learnt and understood from that person's role in the video.

Part Eight - Subscribe to an RSS feed

1. Go to www.google.com/ig and sign up with a free Google account if you do not already own one.
2. After signing in, SAVE the layout of your personalised page.
3. You are then able to add other applications to your page.
4. Search for "Google Reader" under "Add Stuff".

5. Add this application to your page.
6. Watch the YouTube video available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqSsXr8AN20> which will teach you how to use Google Reader, but will also clarify steps 1-5 above if you have any problems with them!
7. Wait a few days and see the benefits of RSS... Add an entry to your blog and wiki about the benefits of using RSS to read E-News.

Part Nine - Enhance your pbWiki

1. All your wiki will be at this stage is videos... but that is not all it will be!
2. On your wiki create a number of pages (you and your group should determine an appropriate structure) for the following areas:
 - a. What are the advantages of 5 different types of multimedia?
 - b. What are the disadvantages of 5 different types of multimedia?
 - c. How often does each group member use multimedia in their lives?
 - d. After learning about the various types of multimedia, how are you going to use them in your lives?

Any problems or questions?

Avoid asking your teacher for help during class time (unless you are really stuck on something). Instead, add a comment to your teacher's blog or question on the wiki. This will allow other groups to see your question(s) and may save them time as well.

<http://mashton2.wordpress.com>
<http://mashton-ed2203.pbwiki.com/FrontPage>