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***Using Multimedia Book Reviews To Build A  
Community of Readers and Writers***

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A Multimedia Book Review is a short summary of a book that is captured electronically to share with others. Its purpose is to elicit interest in the book. Multimedia Book Reviews afford teachers and students an opportunity to:

- share quality children's books with a variety of audiences, including children, families, and the global community;
- focus on reading (e.g., phonemic awareness, phonics, word identification, comprehension, fluency, vocabulary knowledge and concept development);
- engage in the process approach to writing when composing the script (i.e., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing);
- use technology to create multimedia formats;
- and, build a community of readers and writers inside and outside the classroom.

**Recommended Digital Tools**

- Digital Camera
- External microphone (e.g., USB desktop microphone for small groups or a USB headset with microphone for individual students)
- *Microsoft PowerPoint*
- *Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer 2003 (Windows Only)*
- *QuickTime Player* and *QuickTime Pro* upgrade  
(Mac) - <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/mac.html>  
(Windows) - <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/win.html>

- *GarageBand* (Mac only) - <http://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/>
- *iWeb* (Mac only) - <http://www.apple.com/ilife/iweb/>
- *iMovie* (Mac only)
- *Audacity* - <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
- *Windows Moviemaker* (Windows Only) -  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/moviemaker2.msp>
- *Microsoft Photo Story 3* for Windows –  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp>
- *PBwiki* - <http://pbwiki.com/>
- *TeacherTube* - <http://www.teachertube.com/index.php>

### **Strategies for Sharing**

- Class Book
- Class Newsletter
- Class Newspaper
- Bulletin Board Display
- Class Slideshow
- Movie
- CD (e.g., Book Trailer or “Sneak Peeks”)
- DVD
- School Website
- School Podcast
- School Blog
- *TeacherTube* – <http://www.teachertube.com/index.php>
- *PBwiki* – <http://pbwiki.com/>

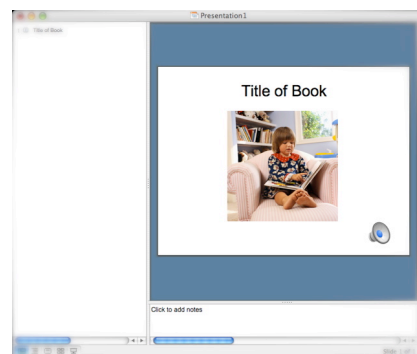
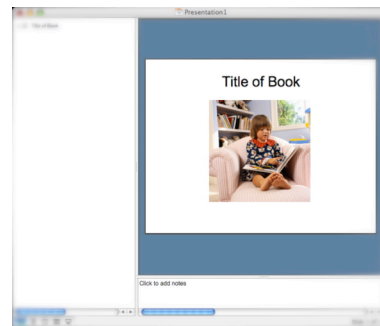
## Step-by-Step Procedures

### Book Review Summary

1. After reading a book, write a brief summary to be read aloud.
2. The reading should be approximately 1 minute in length.
3. Practice reading aloud.
4. Use *Microsoft PowerPoint* or *QuickTime Pro* to create a multimedia format for sharing with others.

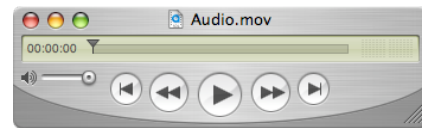
### Microsoft PowerPoint

1. Open *Microsoft PowerPoint* and select a template for the project.
2. Create a Title Slide
3. Select the “Add Picture Slide” template with title and picture for each book review.
4. Type title of the book for the title.
5. Take a digital photo of the student reading or holding the book and insert into the slide.
6. Choose “Insert” from the menu. Next, select “Movies and Sounds.” Then, select “Record Sound.”
7. Use an external microphone to record the summary. You can also insert an audio clip from another source if desired.
8. Play the slide. Click the speaker icon on the slide to hear the recording. You can upload the *PowerPoint* Slideshow to the school website for sharing with others.



## QuickTime Pro

1. Download and install *QuickTime Player*.
2. Then, upgrade to *QuickTime Pro*.
3. Open *QuickTime Player* and select “New Audio Recording.”
4. Use an external microphone to record the audio.
5. Take a digital photo of the student reading or holding the book.
6. Copy the photo to clipboard.
7. In *QuickTime Player*, move the playhead to the beginning.
8. Choose Edit and “Select All.”
9. Next go to Edit and select “Add to the Selection & Scale.”
10. Save as self-contained movie for viewing. The movie can be Exported as Movie to QuickTime or Movie to Windows Media for uploading to a school website. You can also save as Movie to iPod for importing to iTunes.





## Creating Multimedia Book Reviews Planning Guide for Teachers



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Purpose of Activity</b>                      |  |
| <b>State Standards and/or Learning Outcomes</b> |  |
| <b>Teaching Strategies</b>                      |  |
| <b>Grouping Strategies</b>                      |  |
| <b>Multimedia Format(s)</b>                     |  |
| <b>Digital Tools</b>                            |  |
| <b>Audience(s)</b>                              |  |
| <b>Strategies for Sharing</b>                   |  |
| <b>Strategies for Feedback</b>                  |  |



## Creating Multimedia Book Reviews Teaching and Grouping Strategies



| Grade Levels                      | Teaching Strategies   | Grouping Strategies   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Kindergarten – First Grade</b> | The Language Experience Approach (LEA)<br><br>*The Writing Process (teacher modeling)   | Whole Group<br><br>Small Groups<br><br>Pairs or Individual (one-on-one with the teacher)  |
| <b>Second Grade – Third Grade</b> | The Language Experience Approach (LEA)<br><br>*The Writing Process<br><br>Reading and Writing Partners<br><br>Reading and Writing Workshop<br><br>Reading and Writing Conferences | Whole Group<br><br>Small Groups<br><br>Cooperative Learning Groups - Discussion Director, Script Writer, Sound Supervisor, Photography, and Reporter(s)<br><br>Pairs or Individuals (one-on-one with the teacher) |
| <b>Fourth Grade – Fifth Grade</b> | *The Writing Process<br><br>Reading and Writing Partners<br><br>Reading and Writing Workshop<br><br>Reading and Writing Conferences   | Whole Group<br><br>Small Groups<br><br>Cooperative Learning Groups - Discussion Director, Script Writer, Sound Supervisor, Photography, and Reporter(s)<br><br>Pairs<br><br>Individuals                           |

\* The Writing Process (i.e., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and sharing/publishing)



**Creating a Multimedia Book Review  
Checklist for Students  
(4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Who is your reading/writing partner?
- \_\_\_ What is the title of the book?
- \_\_\_ Who is the author?
- \_\_\_ What is the story about?
- \_\_\_ Who are the main characters?
- \_\_\_ Write a summary of the book.
- \_\_\_ What do you want others to know about the book?
- \_\_\_ What did you like best about the book?
- \_\_\_ Create a script for reading aloud (approximately 1 minute in length).
- \_\_\_ Practice reading the script to your partner.
- \_\_\_ Let the teacher know that you are ready to record.
- \_\_\_ Use the microphone to record the audio.
- \_\_\_ Take turns with your partner to take a digital photograph holding or reading the book.
- \_\_\_ Work with your partner and the teacher to insert the photograph and the audio recording into the selected multimedia format (e.g., *PowerPoint* or *QuickTime*)
- \_\_\_ Share your Multimedia Book Review.

## Sample Letter to Families

Dear Families,

We look forward to working with you this year. Please check the best ways to let you know about school projects, homework, resources for learning, school activities, and community events this year.

|                           | Most of the Time | Sometimes | Never |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|
| Notes                     | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Newsletters               | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Telephone                 | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Email                     | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| School Website            | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Open House                | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Workshops                 | _____            | _____     | _____ |
| Parent-Teacher Conference | _____            | _____     | _____ |

This year we plan to use digital photography and technology to create a variety of multimedia projects to use in class and send home for sharing. Some of the projects may require special hardware and software, so please check all of the items below that you have easy access to at home so that we can choose the best ways to share with you.

### Media Access

Television \_\_\_\_\_  
VCR Player \_\_\_\_\_  
DVD Player \_\_\_\_\_  
CD Player \_\_\_\_\_  
mp3 Player (e.g., iPod) \_\_\_\_\_

### Computer, Software and Internet Access

Computer \_\_\_\_\_  
Dial-up Internet Access \_\_\_\_\_  
Broadband Internet (DSL or Cable) Access \_\_\_\_\_  
*Microsoft Word* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Microsoft PowerPoint* \_\_\_\_\_  
*QuickTime Player* \_\_\_\_\_  
*iTunes* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Flash Player* \_\_\_\_\_

Non-electronic projects such as class books and newsletters will also be sent home. Thank you for your willingness to complete this survey. The information received will be used to create and distribute information and class projects throughout the year.

Sincerely,

## Analyzing the Data

Record the responses collected from the *Letter to Families* in a table for easy reference (see examples below). Then consider the students and their families when creating class projects and selecting delivery methods in order to promote effective communication between home and school.

### Media Access

| <b>Students</b> | <b>Television</b> | <b>VCR Player</b> | <b>DVD Player</b> | <b>CD Player</b> | <b>mp3 Player</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mary            |                   |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| José            |                   |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Lakisha         |                   |                   |                   |                  |                   |
| Rajiv           |                   |                   |                   |                  |                   |

### Computer and Internet Access

| <b>Students</b> | <b>Computer Access</b> | <b>Dial-Up Internet Access</b> | <b>Broadband Internet Access</b> |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mary            |                        |                                |                                  |
| José            |                        |                                |                                  |
| Lakisha         |                        |                                |                                  |
| Rajiv           |                        |                                |                                  |

### Software Access

| <b>Students</b> | <b>Microsoft Word</b> | <b>Microsoft PowerPoint</b> | <b>Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer</b> | <b>QuickTime Player</b> | <b>iTunes</b> | <b>Flash Player</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Mary            |                       |                             |                                    |                         |               |                     |
| José            |                       |                             |                                    |                         |               |                     |
| Lakisha         |                       |                             |                                    |                         |               |                     |
| Rajiv           |                       |                             |                                    |                         |               |                     |

### Delivery Methods by Student

| <b>Students</b> | <b>Paper Copies</b> | <b>CD</b> | <b>DVD</b> | <b>Email</b> | <b>Web Page</b> |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Mary            |                     |           |            |              |                 |
| José            |                     |           |            |              |                 |
| Lakisha         |                     |           |            |              |                 |
| Rajiv           |                     |           |            |              |                 |

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## Acknowledgements

*Special thanks to the children, teachers and my students for their willingness to share.*



**Multimedia Book Reviews  
Conferee Worksheet**



**What is the title of your favorite book?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who is the author?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What did you like best about the book?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you think someone should read this book?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Write a brief book review to read aloud (approximately 1 minute in length)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_