InstaCollage app

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2. District: William Floyd School District
3. Grade: 9-12
4. Subject: English
5. CCLS Standard Addressed: 9-10.SL.1, 9-10.SL.4, 9-10.SL.5, 9-10.W11a, 9-10.W.11d
6. Website/Location of app:

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instacollage-pro-pic-frame/id530957474?mt=8

7. Description of application: *InstaCollage is a quick and easy app for making picture collages. What distinguishes it from many other collage-creation apps is the number of pictures you can use in a collage and the ease of adding captions to each picture. In addition, the app provides a nice selection of photo templates a user can choose from to combine their photos; these layouts feature both standard geometric shapes and more unusual arrangements. A user simply chooses from 80+ collage layouts, imports photos from their camera roll and arranges them as desired on the layout, adds text and/or stickers, then applies a border to the collage. The added text can be easily modified in terms of text color, size, font, and background. Two nice features that are not commonly available on a 'free' version is that each photo can be panned, rotated, or mirrored, and multiple text boxes can be used in a single collage (and each box can be moved/positioned anywhere on the collag).. The collage can be saved to the iPad "Camera Roll" or shared on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr. InstaCollage comes in two versions – free to use (limited effects/designs) and a purchasable app ($.99, unlocks more advanced/numerous effects).*

8. Incorporation explanation: *I can see multiple uses for a simple collage-creation program in the classroom.   For instance, it could be used in a pre-reading activity in order to stimulate discussion or assess background knowledge (students could be asked to provide their understanding or opinion on a topic -- e.g. the American Dream -- create a photo collage with captions to demonstrate their perspective on the subject, and use the finished product in an oral presentation). This would be a quick and easy way to address CCLS 9-10.W11.a (Engage in a wide range of prewriting experiences, such as using a variety of visual representations, to express personal, social, and cultural connections and insights). It would also be useful as a post-reading check for understanding. In addition, the app is a simple way to foster student collaboration without a lot upfront work by the teacher or the need for additional equipment/materials. The ability to quickly and easily produce a finished product makes this app a very useful tool in the classroom. However, there is a major caveat: as far as I am able to determine, only photos on the iPad Camera Roll can be used in the collages; therefore, the app could not be a 'spur of the moment' assignment unless the students (or teacher) had applicable photos available for use or unless the assignment lent itself to photos which could be taken during the activity using the iPads camera.*