

S. Hayes Oakley
Eastport South Manor School District
Art, Grades K-12
App: Pixntell EDU

CCLS Standard Addressed:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3c Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.

CCSS Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (Grades 9-10):

6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

9. Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Website/Location of App:

Found on I-tunes App Store or at <http://pixntell.com/>

App = \$1.99

Description of App:

Pixntell is an app that allows you to create and organize a slideshow of images and then record audio narration over each slide.

You can either take pictures for your slideshow directly with the I-pad, or you can upload images from your camera roll. You can rearrange the order of images by dragging and dropping the thumbnail images into place. You can also edit, enhance, and add effects to each image.

Incorporation of App into Classroom:

In art class, Pixntell can be used in a variety of ways. The app can be used to showcase student artwork. The students can record their voices over each slide, explaining their process or giving information about the piece.

Teachers or students can use the app in lieu of PowerPoint to give an oral/visual presentation on any subject. The motivation of using this app is the integration of technology in combination with the fun of recording one's voice and presenting information in a new way. It allows students to edit their comments before it's time to present. They can concentrate on clear annunciation and delivery of information. Students also must sequence their slides in order to communicate coherently.

Pixntell is very similar to 30 Hands, which is free. (The advantage of Pixntell is that they have made it easier to arrange the images within the slideshow.) In my class I used 30 Hands for an art history presentation, but Pixntell could have also been used. For the art-making portion of the project, each student's goal was to create an original work of art based on an iconic artist from art history. (Once they chose their mentor artist, they created a piece of art utilizing the chosen artist's style or preferred subject matter.) We took pictures of their completed projects with the i-pad. The students used the I-pad to upload images from the web: images of their artists, their artists' work, and other related images to inform viewers about their chosen artists. All of these were added to the slideshow. In the slideshow, we grouped the artist-related images to the students' original art pieces. We put all of the images in chronological order. The students were then able to voice over the slideshow, telling about the artist they chose based on their research and giving background information about how they came to create their original work in that artist's style.

In the past, I may have asked students to take turns giving mini-presentations on their artists, but the incorporation of programs like 30 Hands and Pixntell allows us to organize all of the disparate artwork and slides into one single audio/visual presentation.