Comic Strip Story 3-5 (Teacher Page)

Activity Overview

Explain to students they will be creating their own comic strips. The comic strip will tell a story with a beginning, middle and end with defined characters, setting, dialogue and plot.

Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze comic strips to identify characters, setting, dialogue, and plot.
- Create or reconstruct a sequence of events from the story.
- Organize ideas on how to combine pictures, captions, and dialogue to tell about a specific event or express a message.
- Develop comic strips to depict story-related or self-created events, convey a message, or express interesting information.

Prior Knowledge

None Required.

Procedure

1. Distribute the Example Comic doc. to small groups, or to the class. Working with one comic strip at a time, analyze with students how the comic-strip creator combined text, quotes, and images to tell a story or event or convey a message. Have students identify the characters, setting, and plot in each one. Point out any captions that appear and explain that these are often used to provide a brief narration or give additional information. Have students identify speech and thought bubbles in the examples, and tell how these devices are used: a speech bubble contains the character's spoken words while a thought bubble expresses the character's unspoken thoughts. Sum up this step by telling students that, due to limited space, comic strips focus on the main idea and the most important elements of the topic, event, or message to be communicated.
2. Distribute the Fill-in Comic Strips handout. Have students use one of the templates for a warm up activity. These templates contain pictures, blank thought and speech bubbles. The students can analyze the pictures and fill in the bubbles to create a complete story. Have students pair and share.
3. Show students the website they will be creating their comic on www.makebeliefscomix.com. Go through the on-line demo. Demonstrate how to construct a comic strip by advancing to the layout screen. Working through one element at a time, review the images for characters, settings, objects, and bubbles. Show students how to click and drag the items to the comic frames and then use the command buttons on the left to adjust the size, orientation, and position of the item. Explain that they

should click the garbage can to delete any unwanted items. Choose several kinds of bubbles, and demonstrate how to insert text. Point out that each bubble uses a specific size and kind of font. Explain to them they will be creating the entire comic strip, pictures, text bubbles and story on the 3 or 4-box panel. When the comic is complete, students may print it and or e-mail it you.

4. Students may use the Story Train link using the fill-in-the-form feature and print it. Or they may also use the Storyboard Template to organize and brainstorm their story for their comic.
5. After completing their planning and organization of their comic strip, students can create their comic strip at www.makebeliefscomix.com. After proofreading and editing, they may print the final copy or e-mail it to you, the teacher.
6. Share as a class.

Project Deliverables

Completed comic strip.

Project Assessment

Comic Rubric

Sample Project Timeline

1 to 2 class sessions

Helpful Tutorials

1. http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/ To create comic strip
2. http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Printables/ Templates to print
3. http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Diagram/ Click for demo
4. http://content.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/l/lessonplans_graphicorg_pdfs_storytrain.pdf Story train that can be filled out on-line and printed.
5. http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Story-Ideas/ Story ideas

Famous Comic Strip websites: Use the websites to look at and analyze comic strips on-line as a class or print a few examples to distribute to students.

1. http://www.gocomics.com/calvinandhobbes/ Calvin & Hobbes
2. http://www.garfield.com/comics/todayscomic.html Garfield
3. http://comics.com/peanuts Peanuts

http://comics.com/marmaduke/ Marmadu

Engaging Qualities

Clear modeled expectations: Use examples and template options for planning.

Choice: Choose the content and characters for their comic.

Sense of audience: Share your comic with the class, or post it to a class website or wiki.

Materials:

• Computer(s)
• Internet
• Printer
• Projector/screen (Interactive Whiteboard)
• Fill-in Comic Strips doc.
• Storyboard template PDF
• Example Comics doc. made in Make Belief Comix
• Comic Rubric