TECHNOLOGY

Grades 4–6

by | Shonda Brisco

USING PHOTO STORY

If you're tired of PowerPoint but still want to provide a great visual presentation or get your students involved in using technology for their library projects, then maybe Photo Story is the answer! Photo Story is a free Windows download that allows you to create a video project that incorporates speech, music, and still photographs into an exciting visual presentation.

1. To get started, download a copy of Photo Story 3 at: *www.microsoft.com/photostory*. Once you have Photo Story installed, open the program and click *Begin a New Story*.

2. Select and upload the photographs that you want to use for your presentation (more than one photo at a time can be uploaded by holding the Control button while selecting your images.) Once the photos are uploaded, you can arrange them or change their order by clicking and dragging them from one location to another in the slide sorter. After you have the photos in order, click *Save Project* and then *Next*.

3. If you want to add text to your presentation, this is done by typing in the textbox on the right-hand side of the slide shown. Continue adding text to each slide and when you're finished, click *Save Project* and then *Next*.

4. Motion and speech can be added in the next step by clicking the tab *Customize Motion* just below the slide display. A pan or zoom effect is created by determining a starting and an ending position on each image. By clicking *Preview* you can see how your slide looks. If you want to change the timing, click the *Duration* button and set the number of seconds spent on the slide.

5. Speech can be added to each slide through the use of a storyboard script that can be written and read aloud using a computer microphone. Click the red "record button" on the screen next to the slide and read your storyboard script. If you don't like how it sounds, simply record it again. Once you like the results, click *Save Project* and then *Next*.

6. So what's a video without music? In the next step click *Create Music* to select some pre-recorded music to add to your project. You can select music by genre, style, bands, moods, tempo, and intensity. Just make a music selection, select the slide to start the music and the slide to end the music, and then preview the project. If you like it, then save it to your presentation, if not, then select again. Photo Story will automatically edit the sound to fit the project.

7. The final step is to decide how you want to save your project. If you plan to upload the video to your website, then save the project to *Playback on Your Computer*. Next, type a short name for your video in *File Name* location box and save it in your *My Video* folder (or any other location where you can access your Photo Story videos. Click *Save Project* and allow Photo Story to create your wp3 file. Once it is finished, watch the final project and share it with others (remember to remind viewers that they will need to use Windows Media Player to access the video online).

For more examples, ideas, directions, free music, and images, go to: *txschoollibrarians.wikispaces.com*.

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