

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2009 Project Report

Project title: *Thinking inside the box: turning hard copy into online news and reviews.*

Project description: This project aims to further develop the literacy levels and ICT skills of students through the creation and transformation of traditional text types into audiovisual media. This detailed unit will include the *Quality Teaching* elements and use technology to enhance each student's ability to communicate in another context and medium. The unit will promote intellectual quality and significance in the activities and include explicit quality criteria for assessment.

Person responsible for project: Leisa Harvey

School, region, diocese: Lambton High School, Newcastle Region

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Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:

- This unit of work will be taught in each Year 9 class, total 225 students.
- Initially 8 teachers will be involved in teaching and producing the digital video reports.
- Project showcased during English lessons to Years 7, 8 and 10 during Literacy and Numeracy Week.
- Family and the community members of students will be involved during the interviewing and development phase of students' news reports and reviews.
- Parents and community will have access to reports via the school's website.
- Work samples will be displayed on the principal's parent information nights.

Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:

- Students to develop greater skills in digital communication and visual literacy as they create an online story package. A traditional news report or review can be enhanced with a made-for-the-web video report.
- Students to make judgements about the elements required to create an audiovisual text designed to meet the needs of a target audience.
- Students to develop their literacy and ICT skills by scripting, speaking, listening, filming and editing.
- Students to use cross curriculum skills and knowledge to choose topics to report on and/or respond to.
- Students to develop work related skills. Many occupations now require employees to contribute to the web by combining traditional print and the enhancements of visual and audio reporting.
- Students to be connected to public world examples of this style of reporting and reviewing via the online websites of Fairfax and News Limited.
- Students to develop key competencies by problem-solving and reflecting on how images construct meaning.
- Increased student engagement in responding to and composing texts.

Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:

- Students researched public world sites that used video to enhance news reports and reviews.
- This was also expanded to include investigating how the art of persuasion is changing – advertisements online.
- Students made judgements about the suitability of film for their projects.
- Students examined model scripts and developed their literacy skills to produce their own scripts (with evidence of editing) for use with their video.
- Students produced a 300 word exposition on a subject of their choice using cross-curriculum knowledge.
- Students enhanced their ICT skills by doing a peer-led tutorial on editing digital video.
- Students demonstrated problem-solving skills by adapting their film script or finding new video when a particular format proved unsuitable to save or edit.
- Students produced a variety of digital video texts, demonstrating various levels of competence.
- Students demonstrated a high level of engagement in this task by remaining focused even when there were unexpected difficulties.
- Cooperative learning was a strong feature of this project as students readily shared their skills and knowledge with each other.

Feedback about making grants available for such projects:

This grant has been very valuable in supporting staff to research, develop and run a literacy program for students which develops and enhances ICT skills. It is often difficult to allocate time and resources for new projects without such support.