

Tips to Avoid PowerPointlessness

Summarized from an article by Jaime McKenzie

<http://www.fno.org/sept00/powerpoints.html>

Handout adapted from Michelle Kendrick, eMINTS.org

1. Make assignments authentic, local and meaningful. Try to avoid PowerPoint reports that require only information that can be copied from web sites and pasted into templates.
 - a. Interviews with local veterans
 - b. Local environmental studies
 - c. History of county or town buildings
 - d. History of the mayors in your town
2. Start with a rubric that includes authenticity and creativity as some of the criteria in your students' presentations. The following Web page has many resources for creating rubrics.
<http://emints.more.net/info/area1/assessment.html>
3. Instead of the impersonal templates that come with PowerPoint use original student art for decorations.
 - a. Use scanned student artwork. It can be used for backgrounds or inserted as pictures.
 - b. Teach your students to draw electronically.
 - c. Teach your students to take their own digital pictures.
4. Create shared folders of student artwork and pictures to be used for class projects.
5. Accompany PowerPoint with written assignments. Use Iceberg metaphor.
6. Review PowerPoint presentations as models and allow students to make suggestions to each other before completing a presentation.
7. Make projects an integrated part of your classroom learning and not just a tack-on review of what has been taught traditionally. If you teach everything and then do a project,

you will not have time for your curriculum. Use the project to teach concepts.

8. Use the hyperlink capability in PowerPoint for making a non-linear presentation.
9. Teach your students design techniques.
 - a. Stress a focus on presentation content. Have the students plan on paper first or create the PowerPoint without graphics before getting approval.
 - b. Graphics, sounds etc should be appropriate for the presentation.
10. Teach your students presentation techniques.
 - a. Awareness of the audience
 - b. Dramatic, not just reading
 - c. Maintain Eye Contact

The PICTURES way of Using PowerPoint to Learn

From Julie Phelps, eMINTS.org

Paper plan before

Information before design

Consistent colors

Text in one or two simple fonts

Use basic backgrounds

Remember to use your own words

Easy on the clip art

Sounds should supplement