



TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH  
COMMITTEE

## 2008 – 2009 Grant Project Report

**Project Title:** Creating a Middle Grades Position Paper via Three Learning Modules: Traditional Methods, Video Production, and Videoconferencing Technology

**Project Creator(s):** Patricia Sweeney, Mr. O’Hearn

**School District:** Chenango Forks CSD

**Grant Award:** \$2030.00

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## **TRC Grant Summary**

**Project: Students using I-movie to create public service announcement**

**Project coordinators: Mr. Michael O’Hearn and Mrs. Patricia Sweeney  
Chenango Forks Middle School, Binghamton, NY.**

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Students of this century use multimedia as their language. Engaging students in project- based learning invests them in the learning process as they use multimedia tools to convey what they have learned. Students can take ownership of knowledge when they have an opportunity to create a digital publication.

The library media specialist and ELA teacher for 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Chenango Forks Middle School have taken a once traditional, tried and true method of pedagogical instruction and library core curriculum and enhanced it through a collaborative project that enables students to better showcase what they have learned and reach different instructional learning styles.

We have currently completing such a project with approximately 80 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that demonstrates the importance of the school library in helping young people learn 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking skills while raising awareness and promoting healthy living tips and information to the student body.

As the school library media specialist for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, I have collaborated with my students’ ELA teacher to incorporate cutting edge video technology into traditional methods of writing and research collection, specifically, the completion of student research papers on child health issues that concern today’s middle school students.

Our middle school students are currently using 21<sup>st</sup> century research skills in their ELA classes to search through library databases and websites and gather information to support and use in their research paper. They were required to organize their collected information in Inspiration software and then write a research paper using credible sources. The library media specialist taught lessons in research, paraphrasing, note-taking, Inspiration and citing sources as an integral part of this unit. Their final product was published using Microsoft word.

Students then used the knowledge that they gained from all their research and their written work to create a public service announcements using I-Movie technology. Their public service announcement served as a vehicle to share what they learned and to teach their peers positive tips and ideas to help students be successful in middle school and life. Students researched and produced public service announcements on staying organized, proper nutrition and fitness, dealing with acne, coping with braces and tips for good oral health. 10 students were selected to produce the public service announcement using IMovie software by Apple. The other 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have participated in various roles as videographers, consultants, prop providers and actors/actresses.

Enabling students to use their medium, multi-media technology to communicate their thoughts, knowledge and passion about what they have researched reinforces what they have learned while giving all learners a chance to participate in a collaborative video production. The production of the public service announcements has given our students a greater investment in how and why they are doing research. They know that their work will be shared and made public to our community and even the world via the Internet. Students meet all four NY State standards for ELA. Students use language for information and understanding as they rely on their research as a knowledge base for their documentary. They convey their responses to what they have learned and their thoughts and knowledge in creative a digital-video project. Students express their perspectives, opinions and positions on “health” issues based on their prior knowledge and research. They will also engage in social interaction by communication with their peers through the use of the **classroom blog** to share production ideas and communicate about meeting and filming times. During the course of the project, students interviewed others as well as sharing their own knowledge with a wide audience.

Finally, successful completion of the project has resulted in a tangible public service video on some health problems that affects students. Their understanding, knowledge and voice is communicated in a digital video publication that they have created. Student I-movies will be in a format that will allow us to share them with the whole school and entire community by airing them on the Internet.

This project was funded using a TRC Grant awarded to the school media specialist and collaborating teacher (Mr. O'Hearn) for the purposes of this project. Grant awarded students 4 digital cameras, a flip camera, and a Mac laptop. Students also used a mobile Mac cart provided by our local BOCES.

The library media specialist and English Language Arts teacher have collaborated to teach and facilitate this project, teaching the students group communication strategies as well as teaching I-Movie, video-editing, camera work along with modern research skills. We have had the thrilling work of overseeing and facilitating this project here at Chenango Forks Middle School. We believe teaching our students to work and collaborate in this new world demonstrates the importance of partnership between the school librarian and classroom teacher in preparing students for success in this new century.

In conclusion, we hope that our student project will be shared with a broad audience of educators to demonstrate the richness of collaboration and integrated use of technology. We are using information technology to build a community of life-long learners who are equipped with new skills and innovation.