

Activity 4

Computer Book Report

Objectives

- ◆ Introduce the concept of computer content as the intellectual property of those who produce it.
- ◆ Raise awareness that computer content is protected by copyright.
- ◆ Reinforce understanding of plagiarism and the responsibility to credit sources in all school work.
- ◆ Guide students through the basic procedures for producing a computer presentation.
- ◆ Enhance research, communications, collaboration, and computer skills.

Materials Required

- ◆ Classroom computer with presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint®. It would be useful to have access to a scanner as well.
- ◆ The **©Team Book Report** PowerPoint template available for download at www.jointheteam.com. You may want to ask your school technology coordinator for help in obtaining and working with this resource.
- ◆ Digital images on CD-ROM, scanned, gathered from the Internet, and/or taken with a digital camera.
- ◆ Student computers with presentation software, at least one computer per student group, located in the classroom or the school computer center.

Time Required

- ◆ Five to seven class periods for planning, hands-on development, and follow-up discussion.

Instructional Guidelines

- ◆ Introduce the concept of computer content by having students talk about their experiences with CD-ROMs, computer games, video games, and websites, or show a CD-ROM learning game on your classroom computer. Ask students to name some of the creative talents involved in making computer content. They should recognize the work of writers, artists, animators, and designers. Refer to the **Join the ©Team!** poster to remind students that programmers like Patty also help create computer content by writing the computer



code that makes the words and images work together.

- ◆ Remind students that computer content is protected by copyright. Show them the copyright symbol on a CD-ROM or in the “About” section of a program running on your computer, and tell them they can find the copyright symbol at the bottom of most webpages when they go online. Explain that the symbol means it is against the law to copy computer content without permission, even content you can use for free on the Internet.
- ◆ Tell students they are going to become computer content creators by producing computer book reports using presentation software. That way, they’ll be able to see for themselves how much work goes into making computer content and why it’s important to respect the rights of those who produce it.

Previewing PowerPoint

- ◆ Use the **©Team Book Report** template to show students how computer presentation software works. The template is designed for students to replace guide texts (in parentheses) with their own words. Show students how to select and type over these guide texts. The template also includes space for students to insert an image on most pages. Show students how double-clicking on these image spaces will give them access to a clip art gallery where they can find pictures to illustrate their reports. Last, show students how to advance from slide to slide and how to play the presentation as a slide show. Depending on your own familiarity with presentation software, you

might also show students how to change the slide backgrounds, how to change fonts, and how to reorganize the slide layouts.

Planning the Book Report

- ◆ Once they are familiar with the operation of presentation software, provide students with copies of the **©Team Book Report Planner** worksheet, which outlines the presentation slide by slide. Review the topics covered in the presentation and talk about how students should plan to “fill in the blanks” on each slide. The template includes a cover slide, individual slides for setting, character, plot (main events), and student conclusions, plus a credits and copyright slide at the end. You may wish to modify the presentation to correspond with your own format for student book reports – for example, by changing the topic headings, creating separate slides for individual characters, or adding slides for information about the author, a glossary, or favorite passages.
- ◆ Divide the class into presentation partners who will produce a book report together. Consider computer availability as you divide the class. Each set of partners will need access to a computer with presentation software to create their report. You might plan to have students work as a class in your school computer center or take turns at your classroom computer.
- ◆ Have students prepare their presentations using the worksheet, which includes space for them to plan images for each slide. Depending on your resources, these can be generic clip art graphics, stock photos from a CD-ROM collection, scanned illustrations from the books on which students are reporting, pictures copied from the Internet, or even digital images of the students themselves acting out episodes from the story. Use this image-planning part of the project to remind students of the need to avoid plagiarism by crediting their source when they use someone else’s intellectual property in their school work. Point out that they will need to provide credit information on the final slide of the presentation for all the pictures and other resources they use.

Creating Computer Content

- ◆ Schedule time for each partner group to create their presentation when you and/or your school technology specialist can supervise their work.

Coach students through the steps of selecting text, typing in what they have written on their planning worksheet, and checking their work for accuracy. Show students how to access, insert, and position pictures for each slide. Finally, guide them through the “Credits and Copyright” slide, where there is space for them to credit their sources (including the book they are reporting on) and enter their own copyright to the report.

- ◆ When all partner groups have completed their computer book reports, have them show off their communications and computer skills by presenting their reports to the class. To reinforce the importance of crediting sources and respecting intellectual property, be sure each partner group includes the “Credits and Copyright” slide in its class presentation.

Respecting Intellectual Property

- ◆ Conclude by talking with students about the meaning of the copyright symbol and how it protects all the hard work they put into creating their original computer content. Remind them that the copyright symbol on their credits page identifies the presentation as their intellectual property, even though it may contain elements that are the intellectual property of others. Invite students to reflect on the time, effort, and creative energy they invested in this project and ask how this experience has affected their attitude toward copyrighted computer content they see on CD-ROMs, DVDs, and the Internet.
- ◆ As a follow-up, work with your school’s technology coordinator to copy your students’ computer book reports onto CDs or floppy disks, so that each member of the class can show off his or her work to family and friends. Label each CD or floppy disk with the book report’s title and copyright notice. For a dressier look, you can download special ©Team CD and floppy disk label templates at The ©Team website, www.jointhecte.com, for use with pre-cut labels available at most office supply outlets. At the website you will also find an order form you can use to request a supply of free blank CD-R disks and other materials that may be helpful in completing this project. In cases where it is not possible to produce digital copies of your students’ computer book reports, plan to print out copies for all members of the class, which you or your students can bind to form a finished product.