

Great Classroom Idea



Grade level: Primary/Intermediate

Subject (if applicable): All

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> lesson plan | <input type="checkbox"/> project-based teaching/activity idea |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> technology integration idea | <input type="checkbox"/> graphic organizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> integration of faith and learning idea | <input type="checkbox"/> webquest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> classroom management technique | <input type="checkbox"/> virtual field trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> devotional | <input type="checkbox"/> bulletin board idea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> science demo or experiment | <input type="checkbox"/> critical thinking strategy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assessment tool | <input type="checkbox"/> original classroom game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> relationship-building idea | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Description: (attach supplementary materials if needed)

Photos can elicit powerful stories and children are fascinated by cameras and taking pictures. Digital cameras, satisfy another youthful expectation of instant gratification, and can be used effectively to engage students in writing. If the old cliché, "a picture is worth a thousand words," has some basis in truth, we can certainly leverage this technology to elicit some fraction of those words from our budding student authors.

Consider these ideas:

1. Students explore the school grounds to capture images of objects comprised of geometric shapes and solids (triangles, circles, squares, etc.). They then write about their captured image, i.e., "The playground swing is like a triangle when..."
2. A team of students creates a photographic essay comprised of 6 to 10 images to illustrate a concept, story, or how to do something. Without narration, they show their slide show to the class. (Many cameras have this built-in feature when hooked up to a television or computer.) Students in the audience then interpret the story and write it in their own words.
3. Using the "macro" feature of the camera, students take pictures of small details of larger objects with the aim to challenge others with the question, "What is this?" Images are printed then exchanged in class. Students write in descriptive words and phrases about the texture, colour and shapes shown in the image then compose a paragraph that describes the object and where they believe the photographer found it.

Many schools already own several digital cameras that you can check out for use. If not, digital cameras are affordable within most classroom budgets, starting at prices less than \$100. Top considerations for selecting a new camera are ease of use and connectivity to classroom or lab computers, printers or TV monitors. If you use several different cameras in your classroom and they have removable memory cards or sticks, consider purchasing a digital card reader to hook up to your computer and/or classroom television to quickly share and transfer images from a variety of memory card media. These devices are available at electronics stores in a price range of \$20 to \$50, depending upon specific features.

Submitted by: Bruce Wentzell

School: Sandy Lake Academy