

Edgar Allan Poe Video Project:

READ Magazine is sponsoring a video contest to commemorate Edgar Allan Poe's upcoming 200th birthday (January 19, 2009)! The editors call on students to show off their knowledge of the macabre master and to create a video birthday tribute to the famous gothic author.

The deadline for this Weekly Reader exclusive video contest is November 21, 2009! Let's respond with a ghoulish video tribute!

Some images that might inspire you: ravens, floorboards, beating hearts, Baltimore, horror, Lenore, red death.

3-5 winners will receive publication of their Poe video tribute in READ magazine's electronic issue, and lots of Poe goodies! When everyone's projects are complete, I will submit them to READ Magazine! We've got some talented, creative thinkers – I am excited to see what you produce!

Some ideas:

- Write a poem, song, rap, etc.
- Retell one of Poe's stories or poems
- Create a dramatic representation of one of Poe's stories or poems
- What other ideas can YOU come up with????

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

By creating a video birthday tribute to Edgar Allan Poe, students will extend their reading experience beyond the boundaries of the pages and fuse technology with their visions of literature. The outcome is a piece that will have the viewer wanting to see more or, in this case, read more.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Build a deeper understanding of literature and persuasion.
- Have increased their critical thinking and creativity skills.
- Motivate others to read.
- Use technology as a presentation tool to inspire and engage the audience.

TECHNOLOGY OBJECTIVES:

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Use a digital video camera effectively and creatively.
- Use Windows Movie Maker to import video and produce a short movie.
- Use Windows Movie Maker to import and organize images and other sounds.
- Use special effects to enhance a video production.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- Your reference to Poe must be apparent, and if you are dramatizing or retelling one of his stories or poems, you **MUST** include the title in your production.
- Audio, video, **and** still images (hence MULTIMEDIA!)
- At least **TWO** title slides at the beginning and end of your presentation (chances are you'll need more, though)
- You **MUST** include a "Happy Birthday, Poe"-type message

TIMELINE (Subject to Change):

Monday, November 3: Project introduction – muse over ideas at home...

Tuesday, November 4: Groups, Turn in Group Name, Brainstorming session – basic framework due: Which story/poem are you going to feature? What's your general concept? Submit ideas to Mrs. Sanders for approval.

Wednesday, November 5: In computer lab: Begin collecting media: video, audio, images. Save media to your desktop in a folder with your group's name on it.

Thursday, November 6: Media collection, Day 2; Begin adding & editing media as it is finished.

Friday, November 7: Adding/Editing, title slides (intro & credits)

Monday, November 10: Finishing touches

Tuesday, November 11: PROJECT DUE!!!!

RESOURCES

* I realize that some of you may not have ever heard of Windows Movie Maker, much less ever used it, so here are some wonderful, helpful links for you:

- <http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/moviemaker2/>

This site is chock-full of instructional videos to help you. If you don't know how to do something, check here first.

Some of you may not have Windows Movie Maker on your home computer. If you don't, it IS a free download, and I've included that link here for you, too. **DISCLAIMER: Do NOT download this program onto your home computer without permission!!!**

- <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/moviemaker2.msp>

You guys will also need a place to find sound effects &/or music. The best place (IMHO) to get music that you won't get sued for using (ie. without violating copyright laws) is

- <http://www.freeplaymusic.com> and
- <http://garageband.com/genre>

Typically when you find a sound effect you'd like to save to your hard drive (or to a disk or flash drive, etc.) you will need to right-click the link, select "Save File As", then choose the location to which you'd like to download the file.

Here are some links to some free sound effects:

- <http://www.flashkit.com/soundfx/>
- <http://www.sounddogs.com/catsearch.asp?Type=1>
- <http://stonewashed.net/sfx.html>

Many of you may also think to include some of your favorite music from your iPod or your iTunes. Legally, for educational use, you can use up to 30 seconds of a song, so you'll need to find a way to clip the song into small increments. Never fear! I can help you with that, too! Audacity is an audio-editing software that allows you to manipulate sound files in the same way you manipulate text in a Word document. It's a free download, and here's the link: (Again, **DO NOT DOWNLOAD ANYTHING TO YOUR COMPUTER WITHOUT PERMISSION!!!**)

- <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/windows>

You'll also need what's called a LAME encoder. You can get that here:

- <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/faq?s=install&item=lame-mp3>

Whoa - that's an incredible amount of information! Feel free to leave me a comment or send me an email (sandhed@mansfieldisd.org) if you have questions!

HOW WILL WE EARN OUR GRADE?

Your & your group will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Outline
- Accuracy
- Relevance
- Creativity
- Use of Multimedia
- Group Cooperation
- Evaluation from Peers