

Abstract

Integrating Technology into Literacy: Digital Video Dictionary

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Francisca Rangel, a 3-4-5 teacher/researcher at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center saw the need to teach her largely ESL class basic vocabulary words while improving reading and writing skills. After collaboration with the technology specialist and ASL specialist, the digital video dictionary project was born. The process in creating this dictionary is very structured but is not difficult and can be done with a few extra pieces of equipment. The class dictionary is created in PowerPoint and includes text, graphics and video clips. Each student participates in creating the dictionary on the computer using the SMART board. Since the project has begun the students are recognizing words they have learned from the class dictionary in their dialogue journals. This type of literacy project could not be possible without the use of technology. It is the technology that gets the students excited about the project and they don't realize how much they are learning. The presentation will emphasize how this project aids in making the connection between sign and print, decreasing the anxiety of reading and writing in the classroom, improving communication skills, and increasing student and teacher confidence in using technology.