Infographics – How to Create and Use Them in the Classroom

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## Wireless Internet Connection

- Enable wireless connection.
- Choose Meeting@Sheraton wireless network.
- Once connected, launch your Internet browser.
- Choose the access code tab on the splash page.
- Enter in **sefo46**

# Infographics



- What is an *infographic*?
  - An infographic is a visual representation of information, data, or knowledge intended to present complex information quickly and clearly.
  - Data that is sorted, arranged, and presented visually.
  - A data-rich visualization of a story or thesis.
  - A tool to educate and inform.

# Infographics



#### What is an Infographic?





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#### Infographics can be used for:

- <u>Annual reports</u>
- <u>Resumés</u>
- <u>Research reports</u>
- <u>White papers</u>
- Decision trees
- <u>Maps</u>

- <u>Flow charts</u>
- <u>How-to guides</u>
- <u>Lists or rankings</u>
- <u>Advertising</u>
- Explaining complex issues
- Discussion starters

#### **Activity Example**

- Divide the class into seven groups. Assign each group to explore the meaning for one of the colors on the Web site The Meanings of Colors
  <www.colormatters.com/color-symbolism/themeanings-of- colors>.
- Instruct each group to use what they learned from the Web site to develop an original infographic. Have students briefly discuss the information. Display the completed infographics around the room.

#### **Activity Example**

The information used in a traditional resumé can easily be turned into an eye-catching infographic. These resumés can be especially effective for individuals in career fields where creativity is valued.

Have students go to the Pinterest board **Infographic Visual Resumés** <http://pinterest.com/rtkrum/infographic-visualresumes/> to look at examples of infographic resumés. Instruct students to pick one they feel is the best and explain why.

#### **Activity Example Cont.**

#### Questions for Discussion:

- What are the advantages of an infographic resumé?
- What are the disadvantages of an infographic resumé?
- What are the elements of a good infographic resumé?

Next, have students create their own infographic resumé using **Piktochart** <www.piktochart.com>.

## Infographic Resources

Infographics (a little bit of everything)

http://www.schrockguide.net/infographics-as-an-assessment.html

• Teachers First: Now I See!

http://www.teachersfirst.com/iste/infographics/resources.cfm

Cool Infographics Gallery

http://pinterest.com/rtkrum/cool-infographics-gallery/

## Creating an Infographic

- Determine the goal or goals for the infographic.
- Determine the audience and make it relevant to them.
- Use reliable and trustworthy data and sources.
  - Google Search Education

www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation/index.html

## Creating an Infographic

- Create a logical flow of information and keep it simple.
  - Title
  - Introduction
  - Body
- Make the main point the largest element.

## Creating an Infographic



- Keep the type (font) fairly simple. Helvetica and Arial are always safe options.
- Use color wisely.
  - Use muted colors, like gray or tan, for the less important elements.
  - Use one or two bright colors as accent colors to direct or grab the reader's attention.

# Infographic Tools



Piktochart

http://piktochart.com

<u>Easel.ly</u>

(does not work with Internet Explorer) http://www.easel.ly

 Infogr.am http://infogr.am

 <u>Visual.ly</u> http://visual.ly

# Infographic Tools

#### Piktochart

- www.piktochart.com
- Works best with Firefox, Chrome, or Safari
- Infographics can be:
  - Saved and downloaded as images
  - Published as a URL
  - Embedded in blogs and Web sites



Once you have logged in, select one of the available free themes.



## The selected theme will load and you are ready to create an infographic.



If you decide you would like to change the theme, click on your account name and select **Themes page**. You will be able to select a new theme.

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You can change the color scheme of the selected theme by selecting the **Moods** tab and then selecting the color scheme (texture) you would like to use.



To edit the information and graphics, select the appropriate tab at the bottom. You will be able to add and edit shapes, graphics, text and upload images and charts. You simply drag and drop to the infographic above.



To save the infographic, select **File** at the top of the site and then **Save**. Enter the name for the infographic and select **OK**. This will save the infographic to your account.



Once you have saved the infographic, you can download and save the image to any file you choose. Select **Export** at the top and choose what type of file you would like – PNG or JPG. Then right-click the image and select "Save As".





To edit an infographic you have created, select your account at the top left, then select **Saved Piktocharts** and finally, the one you would like to edit.

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