

VoiceThread

What is VT?

VoiceThread is an interactive collaboration and sharing tool that enables users to add images, documents, and videos, and to which other users can add voice, text, audio file, or video comments.

VoiceThread is a cloud application, so there is no software to install. VoiceThread will work in any modern web browser and on almost any internet connection. There is an app.

Creating

Upload, share and discuss documents, presentations, images, audio files and videos. Over 50 different types of media can be used in a VoiceThread.

Commenting

Comment on VoiceThread slides using one of five powerful commenting options: microphone, webcam, text, phone, and audio-file upload.

Sharing

Keep a VoiceThread private, share it with specific people, or open it up to the entire world.

Getting Started...

All teachers and students have VoiceThread accounts through WCPSS.

When creating VTs on your own, always login @the WCPSS domain: **wcpss.ed.voicethread.com**

To sign in to the WCPSS VoiceThread domain:

Teacher/Employee:

Username: wcpss+employee ID (no leading zeros)

Password: employee ID (no leading zeros) unless you have changed your password at some point

Student:

Username: wcp+student id number

Password: student id number

password: employee id (no leading zeros)

VT in Action...

<https://wcpss.ed.voicethread.com/myvoice/#q.b4704818.i24023332>

You can create **Groups** within VoiceThread.

Application of VT in the Classroom

- Give students the opportunities to collect **data**, build **charts** or **graphs** with their data, and then tie it all together by interpreting the data using VT.
- In **science**, have students use VT to explain a science lab, describing the entire process using audio, video, and photos, etc.
- Students can practice **public speaking skills** or reflect on a **practice** or **performance**, using VoiceThread by recording themselves.
- Students can video record a **debate** using a mobile device. Then the class can **evaluate** the debaters' arguments.
- Students choose images to illustrate a class lesson, **narrate** the images they have chosen. Student choice promotes ownership and allows for individual creativity.
- **Language Arts:** A VoiceThread could be used to facilitate a prewriting exercise. The teacher could select a series of images that are representative of a particular genre or topic and load them into a VoiceThread slide show. For each picture, the teacher could create a story starter prompt to engage students in thinking about what story is being told in that particular image. The teacher could then invite students to continue the story by adding details, plot elements, and characters based on what they see in the picture and their preexisting knowledge of the topic and genre. Students could add their extensions of the individual stories by either typing or recording comments for others to hear and build on.
- **Science:** To help students review the life cycle of a butterfly (or any other organism they may be studying), a teacher could create a VoiceThread with images that depict the different stages of development. Students could be prompted to name each stage and tell what is happening to the organism at that stage in order to demonstrate their knowledge on the topic. Comment moderation could be used to ensure that students aren't able to read each other's comments before posting their own.
- **Math:** Teachers could upload a series of documents or images each with its own math problem for the students to solve. Students could then be asked to use the doodle tool and audio comment feature to solve the individual problems and record their thoughts as they work through the problem-solving process. This activity would allow the teacher to not only see the way each student solved the problem but also hear the thought process that was applied, which would provide greater insight into how each student was approaching the problem.
- **Social Studies:** When learning about new cultures, students and teachers could construct a VoiceThread to visually represent the customs, clothing, housing, people, and religion of that culture. The teacher could include a prompt with each image pointing out various aspects of the culture represented and engaging students in a variety of discussion topics that allow them to share their ideas, make comparisons, ask questions, explore, and expand their knowledge about that topic.

Another benefit of VoiceThread is that it is specifically designed to promote the collaborative development of knowledge by providing students the opportunity to share their voice, quite literally, and express opinions regardless of their ability.