Proposal

As educators who try to keep up with our technology savvy students, we are constantly trying to find and practice new ways to incorporate technology into our classrooms and teaching. More specifically, when we can both integrate the use of technology as well as offer our students more than we might be able to offer on our own, it is a win-win for everyone.

Scholastic Story Starter is an excellent tool for any teacher who wants to assist his or her students with story/writing prompts. Sometimes just getting started on a writing piece can be the most difficult part, so with Story Starter’s randomly selected writing prompts, it can take that difficult step out some of the time. From conversations I’ve had with other teachers at my school as well as from my own experience, I have found that often students’ biggest frustrations in writing are what to write about and how to get started. With a tool such as this one, any child or teacher at any age can benefit from all that it has to offer.

It is a web 2.0 tool in which both the user and tool are working together. All that is needed is a computer, ipad, or any other tablet with internet access and an individual who is ready to participate and use their imagination. Printing your final story/writing piece is an option, so in that case, a printer would be needed. The beautiful thing about this tool is that students can not only use it while at school, but they can also use it while on vacation, at home, etc; anywhere they have a device and access to the internet.

You can expect your students to have fun with this tool. Some of the prompts are wacky and funny while others really promote deeper/meaningful thinking. If one doesn’t like part of the prompt, it can easily be changed to another possible choice. It is likely that students will enjoy writing more and have very creative and imaginative pieces to share with their peers and teachers.

Outline of presentation:

* Begin by discussing common frustrations with today’s students and writing
* Pass out handout and walk through Scholastic Story Starter and it’s various parts/steps
* Allow audience to practice using the tool on their own for a few minutes
* Have audience complete survey on how I did on the presentation

**Survey Monkey Survey – assessment tool**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KCLGTX6>