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For my Final Project I decided to complete a creative media project and called Superhero’s Civic Engagement. One of my goals for this assignment was one to fulfill my final project requirement for this class. I wanted to use the Digital Authorship information that I have learned while taking EDC 534 with my students. Another goal was to give my students an opportunity to learn about Digital Authorship, civic engagement, video creation, editing, publishing, storyboards- creating script and voice, video production, and to reflect on the process. I wanted my students to use the information that they learned about being a Digital Author to create a video that would motivate other students to participate in our Pennies for Patients Drive.

I spend time making capes for my students to act in their video production. I felt that it was important to get the students in the role of being superheroes for kids with cancer. After getting the capes ready, I decided to create a few videos and slide presentations to teach my students about Digital Literacy, Civic Engagement, and Video Production Etiquette. During this process, I worked with a small amount of students in the second grade. One class had four students that came everyday we worked. The other class swapped the students each time, so I had a new group of students to work with each day.

Each session started off with brainstorming a scene that we wanted to create for our Pennies for Patients video. Then we took our brainstorming and decided where we were going to videotape and who was going to do what part. Then we videotaped the different scenes for our video. I originally thought we would do all our brainstorming and then videotape it all, but felt bad that some students wouldn’t get the whole feel, so I decided to brainstorm, write notes and videotape each session.

I went to pick up the students first thing in the morning and we spent approximately 40 minutes each time we got together during the mornings to work on our video. On days that we didn’t finish recording in the morning, I went to get the students during my lunch and we spent another 30- 40 minutes working. I was feeling over whelmed and feeling like I wasn’t going to be able to finish our video with just these morning sessions so I asked my afterschool coordinator if I could take my coding students to help me video tape more of our video. I was glad that she gave me permission to work on my project. She also gave me permission to videotape on other days as well. Videotaping took longer than I expected. I originally thought I was going to have the students edit the video, but I was running out of time and didn’t think I was going to have time to pull them and teach them how to edit the video clips. After I was able to edit their clips and put them together, I viewed our work and thought that we needed to include a better ending. I had to grab the students again to do some more videotaping.

The students were very helpful and willing to participate in all our work. When the students saw me in the hallway or afterschool they asked me if we were going to work on our project again tomorrow. I wasn’t expecting the students to be so excited about this project that they wanted to be in the library every chance they could. This definitely made me feel good about our project. I took time this week to share our video with our K-2 students. The students had many reactions and wanted to know how we were able to do this work. I talk to them about green screening and many of them want to try to do some of this work. So I guess I will have to try to come up with a Digital Author assignment that the students can work on during our last weeks in the library.

Some of my plans didn’t go as expected, like when I went to use the storyboard that app to create our brainstorming of our events my subscription was over, so we just wrote note and then I drew our plans out on a paper storyboard. I took a few pictures on Superhero day but not as many as I would have like to include in my project. Our video ended up being a little more than 11 minutes which I thought was fine, but I guess I could have shortened a few of the scenes. The students had a hard time reflecting about what they learned and I could have done a better job getting the students to share what they learned and liked about working on this project. Another difficulty was working in a space where a lot of people come in and out of our library with the door slamming shut. Next time, I need to make signs for our doors so that those who are entering the library will close the door quietly. I also had a teacher talking in the background of one of our videos.

All in all I think this video was a success and it helped us raise a lot of money for our first week of Pennies for Patients collection we were able to raise $1,861.18 campus wide.