ANCHOR STANDARD CHALLENGE # 25

What are the Anchor Standards?

The AZ English Language Arts K-12 Anchor Standards, the **"backbone"** of the Standards, describe the literacy skills which *all students need when they graduate*. There are **10** anchor standards for **reading** and **writing** and **6** for **speaking & listening.**

What purpose do they serve?

Keeping the college and career focus at the forefront of Kindergarten through grade 11/12 implementation is critical as the anchor standards are essential to understanding the structure and cohesive nature of the AZ ELA Standards. It is this unique design that supports the preparation of all students to be successful in school, from the beginning of school, and proficient in the Essential Skills of Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening required for an Arizona Diploma.

Visit http://coconino.az.gov/1893/ELA-Anchor-Standards to view previous Anchor Standard Challenges.

Speaking & Listening Anchor Standard #5:

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

SLS.5 is an extension of SLS.4, which asked students to carefully plan and organize or "design" a presentation to be easily followed. The digital age has provided us with new tools that can be naturally used to enhance presentations, and PowerPoints are just the beginning. (As stated previously, it is important for teachers to provide concrete guidelines for visual aids)

New "Web 2.0" tools provide even better opportunities to create engaging presentations that also force students to master the content and not just copy and paste. The following examples are free online tools that are perfect to enhance student presentations, and there are many more out there.

Thinglink provides an interactive backdrop for the presenter to click on specific features of a photo. This is great for any presentation where the specific details all relate back to the main image. (www.thinglink.com)

Powtoon is a site that helps students create animated video presentations; these are perfect for presentations that seek to explain something. (www.powtoon.com)

Mindmeister creates "mindmaps" (idea webs) that are clickable and interactive. These are perfect for timelines, or presentations that are complex and/or contain complex sets of data. (www.mindmeister.com)

In all of the above cases, teachers should share "mentor texts" of their own or of the many published and shared examples found on the sites. Web 2.0 is about collaboration, and groups can share a login to work on these in groups and independently, but it is important for students to be reminded that these tools are meant to be used "strategically" and are there to enhance, not replace, a speaker's part in the presentation.