

Current Events and Me!

Using the Web, PowerPoint, and Word to Understand the World Around Us

Questions?? – Contact Amy Johns

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<http://teach.fcps.net/trt2>

The Big Idea

Students will use pictures from online news sources to depict a current event. Pictures that are selected should “tell the story” of the event. Once these pictures are compiled into a PowerPoint presentation, the student will then complete a written essay. The essay will consist of two main parts; the first is a summary of the event, the second is their reflection about the event and how they believe it will impact the future. The finished products of this project are a PowerPoint presentation in the form of a photo-essay and a written essay from a word processor such as Word.

What do I need?

- Internet Access
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Word (or other word processor)
- LCD Projector or Scan Converter (ex: AverKey)

Getting Started

1. Begin by explaining the project and showing students an example of a PowerPoint photo-essay and a written essay. Give students a copy of the grading rubric and review it with them.
2. Next, give students a topic, or let students select a topic. Students can get ideas from watching the news, scouring recent newspapers, and/or scanning online news sources.
3. Once topics have been approved, have students search for pictures related to their topic. Remind them that there should be no or very little text on their PowerPoint. Students should copy and paste their pictures into PowerPoint and create a bibliography slide at the end.
4. Once students have all the pictures they need, they can go back and rearrange their slides as needed for the most effective presentation. Build effects, transitions and timings can be added.
5. When PowerPoint presentations are finished, have students work on their written essay. It should incorporate both a summary of the event and a thoughtful reflection or reaction to the event and how it may impact the future. Once complete, students can then present their work to the class or other group.

PowerPoint Tips and Tricks

Getting Pictures from the Internet to PowerPoint

(This works for most pictures using Explorer.)

- Find the picture that you want on the Internet.
- Hover the mouse on the picture and right click.
- Click on Copy.
- Then open the PowerPoint slide that you want.
- Hover the mouse over the slide.
- Right click, and click on paste.

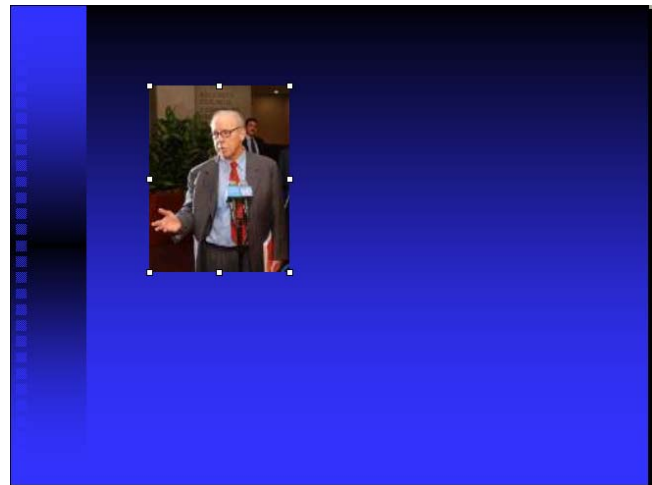


Moving and Resizing Pictures

- To move a picture, click on it and drag it where you want it.
- To resize a picture, click on it.
- Hover the mouse over one of the corner handlebars until the pointer turns into a double-ended arrow.
- Click and drag the handle-bar to resize.

(You should only use the corner handle-bars when possible to keep your pictures proportionate.)

- Pictures can be overlapped if desired.



Transitions, Build Effects, Automatic Timing

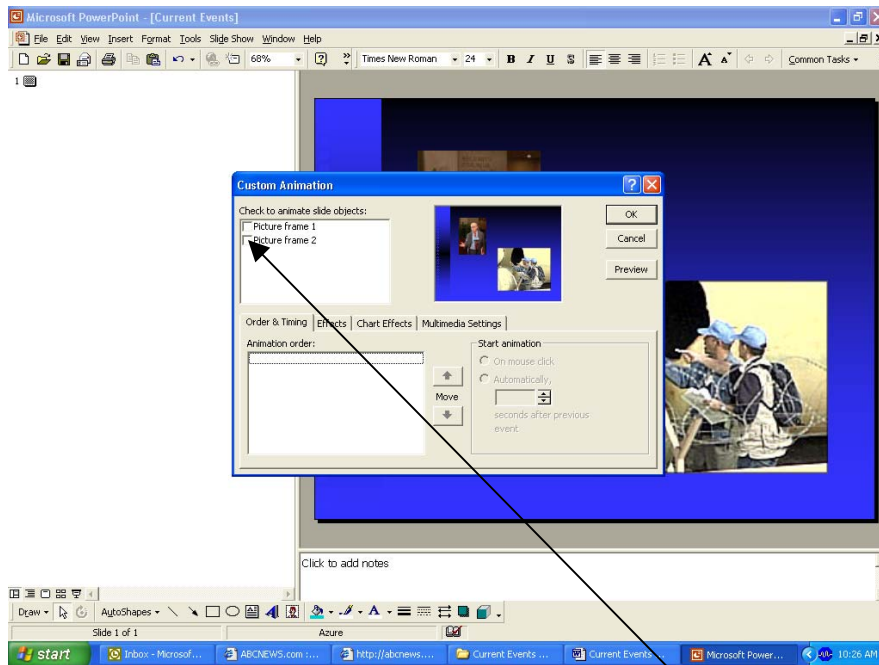
- To add each of these features you need to be in the slider sorter view. Just click on **View** on the menu bar, then **Slide Sorter**.

Transitions – the effect you see when you change from one slide to the next

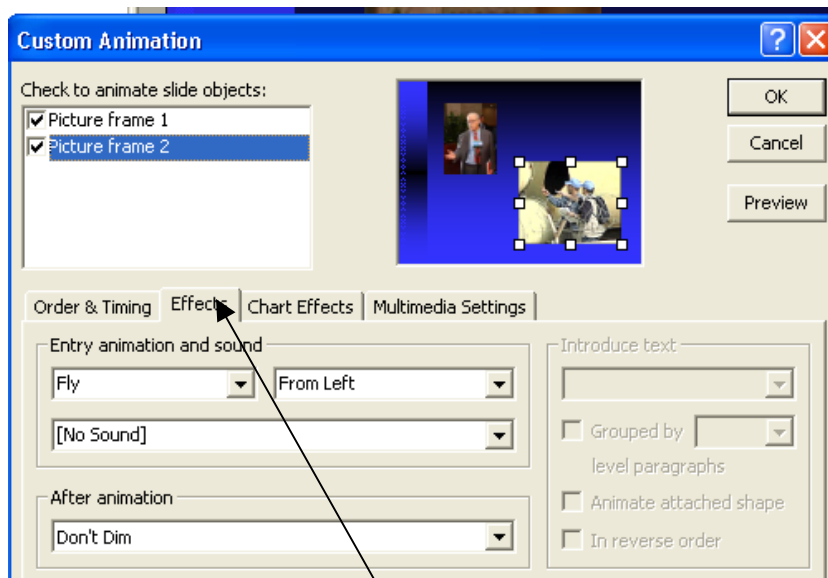
- To set each slide's transition, click on the slide to select it. (A blue box will surround the slide.)
- On the toolbar, click the drop down arrow next to the box that says **No Transition**. Select the desired transition. Once selected, the slide will quickly preview the transition.

Build Effects – these allow text and pictures to enter a slide one at a time. If only pictures are used, this function will not be available from the slide sorter menu.

- Option 1 – From the slide sorter view, follow the same directions for changing the transitions, except click the drop down arrow next to the **No Effect** box.
- Option 2 –If Option 1 doesn't work, follow these steps:
- In normal view, click on **Slide Show** on the menu bar. Then select **Custom Animation**.



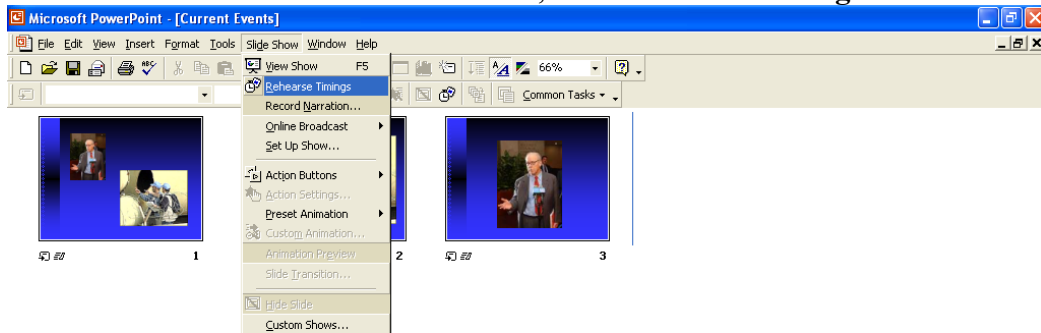
- Click next to each picture you want to animate.



- Click on the Effects tab.
- Click on **Fly** to change to a different effect. Click on **From Left** to change the direction of the effect. Then click on **OK**.

Automatic Timings – sets up the amount of time each slide will be viewed during the slide show without being manually operated. **This should be the last step!**

- Go to the slide sorter view (Click on View, Slide Sorter.)
- Click on **Slide Show** on the menu bar, then **Rehearse Timings**.



- This will start the slide show. A timer will be displayed in the top left corner. Manually progress the slide show at the desired pace. When all slides have been viewed it will ask if you want to save the timings. Click Yes.

Websites You Can Use:

Your View of the News - <http://teach.fcps.net/news/default.htm>

This is the Fayette County web page designed for use by students who are studying current events. Includes links to several news resources and also has place for students to react to the news. Could be a good jumping page.

News/Information Links - <http://teach.fcps.net/trt2/links.htm>

This is a page from my website. Scroll down to the News/Information section. These are links to online news sources.

Time Magazine- <http://fyi.cnn.com/fyi/>

In addition to being a great current events resource, Time also has a photo-essay section that can be used for examples or as a resource for kids. Just click on Photos. This is a must see!

Direct Links:

ABC News – <http://www.abcnews.com>

NBC News – <http://www.msnbc.com>

CBS News – <http://www.cbsnews.com>

CNN News – <http://www.cnn.com>

CNN Student News - <http://fyi.cnn.com/fyi/>

Pencil News – <http://www.pencilnews.com>