Making SmartBoard Lessons Painless

by Susan Martin

**Description:** I created a page on the teacher wiki to share resources and lesson plans for the SmartBoards. In order not to overwhelm the teachers, I linked a sample lesson for each core subject; I also found templates for games that can be easily adapted for any subject. Since I wanted to encourage collaboration among my peers, I made sure to encourage them to add lessons that they find or use to the wiki page. In addition, I worked with the Social Studies teacher to design and deliver an interactive lesson on propaganda. We presented this lesson over two days to introduce the concept of propaganda and to provide an opening to our units on the Russian Revolution and *Animal Farm*. The students interacted with the content on the SmartBoard, instead of listening to the more passive lecture.

**Impact:** We have four SmartBoards in our school, but they are rarely used. We have had professional development on student-centered learning and technology integration, but many of the faculty still avoid using the SmartBoard as evidenced by the teacher technology survey in which all responses were “Never” for using the SmartBoard. I wanted my field experience to reflect that we needed to take steps to integrate this available technology, even though the administration chose it for us. The students need more active lessons, and the SmartBoard is one tool that we can use for now.

**Intent:** I hope to work more closely with my colleagues to create interactive lessons that they will easily implement. I intend on adding to the teacher wiki so that more teachers may find resources to help them improve their instructional delivery.