

## VoiceThread Tutorial

### Description:

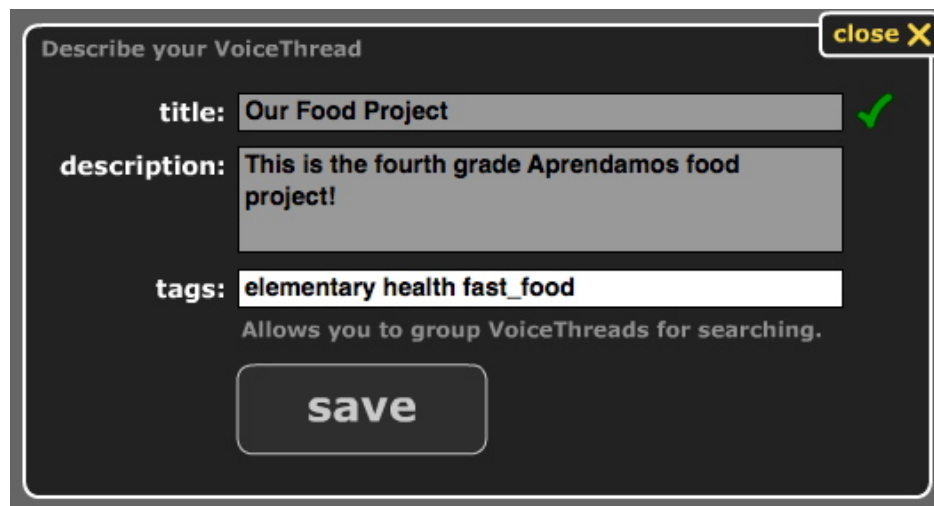
- VoiceThread is a multi-media slideshow application that allows multiple users to provide commentary on pictures and videos in a variety of ways.
- It is fun, easy-to-use, and inherently collaborative. It has also been successfully used in many educational settings, particularly in elementary schools.

### Getting started:

- 1) Sign up for a free account at <http://www.voicethread.com>. You will need to provide an e-mail address and password.
- 2) Once you have signed up for an account, click on the “create” button on the top navigation bar. This will take you to the “create” screen.



- 3) In the top left corner of this screen, click on the “(add a title and description)” button to enter key starting information for your project. Enter tags into the “tags” field to allow your VoiceThread to be searchable in the VoiceThread “browse” public database.

A dark grey pop-up window titled 'Describe your VoiceThread' with a 'close X' button in the top right corner. The form contains three input fields: 'title:' with the text 'Our Food Project' and a green checkmark to its right; 'description:' with the text 'This is the fourth grade Aprendamos food project!'; and 'tags:' with the text 'elementary health fast\_food'. Below the tags field is a small grey box containing the text 'Allows you to group VoiceThreads for searching.' At the bottom center of the form is a large, rounded rectangular button labeled 'save' in white text.

- 4) Click on the save button to take the pop-up box down and go back to the “create” screen.

Creating student identities:

- 5) At the “create” screen, click on the icon in the very upper right of the screen (right next to the e-mail address associated with your VoiceThread account).



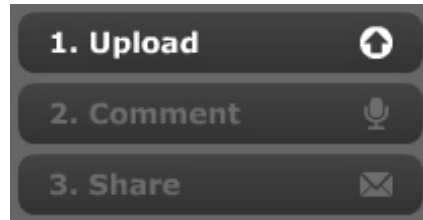
- 6) This will cause a pop-up box to come up. Click on “my identities” to go to a screen where you can create identities for each student in your class. To add an identity, just click on the “add identity” button at the bottom, enter the students name and select a representative image or headshot of them to upload from your dektop.



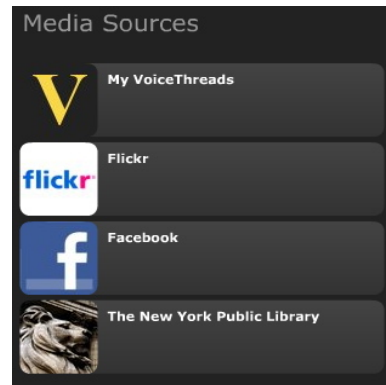
- a. NOTE: A headshot can be created easily on a Mac using the **Photo Booth** application and the computer’s built-in video camera. Students can also add Photo Booth’s built-in filters to these images to be more expressive with their identity.

## Uploading/Importing Media:

- 7) Once you have set up your account and created your user identity, click on the “upload” button in the upper left of the screen to start uploading and importing pictures and videos to your personal VoiceThread database.



- 8) When you click on the upload button, you will notice that VoiceThread gives you a number of different options for importing media:



- a. The “My Computer” button allows you to upload a picture or video from your personal computer’s hard drive. Select the desired file from your directory and click on “open” to upload it.
- b. The “Media Sources” button allows you to import images from your other VoiceThread projects (“My VoiceThreads”), Flickr, Facebook, and the New York Public Library.
- c. The “URL” button allows you to grab media from a webpage. This works best for links to Youtube videos.
- d. The “My Webcam” button allows you to import movies and pictures you capture with a webcam attached to your computer (if you have one).
- e. NOTE: VoiceThread will allow you to upload most image formats (.jpg, .gif, .png), but only accepts videos using the Quicktime standard (.mov).

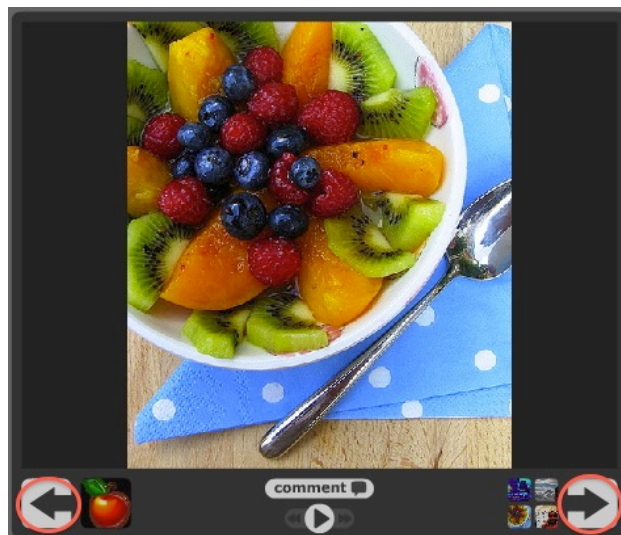
Shuffle/Reorganize:

- 9) Once you have all of your media gathered, you are ready to start building your VoiceThread story or argument! Click and drag the media elements on the “create” screen into any order that you see fit. The element that is highlighted in yellow is the object that is currently draggable.



Comment:

- 10) One of the main attractions in using VoiceThread is its multimedia commenting function. Click on the “comment” button (the second one in the upper left corner), and click on the arrows in the bottom left and right corners to watch the slide show you have created.



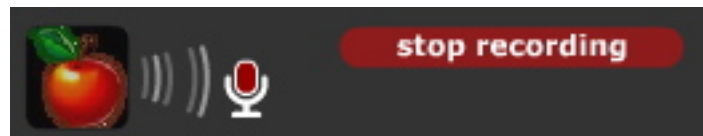
- 11) When the students find a slide that they want to comment on, they should click on the “comment” button in the center of the slideshow right above the play button. Here they will be provided with an array of different ways to provide commentary to a piece of media that they find interesting:



- a. The telephone button allows people to make comments for abroad, but it charges a fee.
- b. The camera button allows students to make video comments using the computer's webcam (if one is installed on the machine).
- c. The record button is what gives VoiceThread its name sake. I will discuss it more in the next section.
- d. The type button allows you to type text comments.
- e. The arrow button allows you to upload media as a comment. (Thereby using media to comment on media!)

### Record:

- 12) One of the most exciting things about VoiceThread is the ability for students to hear their own voice reflected in audio commentary. If you click on the record button, VoiceThread will access the built in microphone on your computer and will count down for three seconds before prompting you to start your recording.



- 13) Then simply start talking into the computer! Once you are done, hit the red "stop recording" button and listen to what you have just recorded. If it is to your liking click the "save" button. If not, hit "cancel" and repeat the same process.

### Share/Present:

- 14) And those are the basics for creating a VoiceThread project! Once you are finished with your VoiceThread, you can share it with friends and family by sending them the link generated when you click on the "share" button on the "create" screen.
- 15) To present your project, click on the "MyVoice" tab in the upper left hand corner to find the project you created along with a number of tutorials for VoiceThread's more advanced features. If you simply click on the center of your project's icon, you will be able to present it!

