

Title: Presenting in Second Life

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TIPS FOR PRESENTING

One of the aspects that makes Second life a valuable tool for educators is the ability to collaborate and share with others. The members of this community have something valuable to share; and Second Life allows us the opportunity to share/present anytime. The more we share, the more we expand our personal learning network, and the more we grow as an educator. Presentations can be informal – sitting in a field, on the beach, or around a fire; or formal – set up in a classroom, conference hall, or auditorium.

Presenting in SL can be a lot of fun. Presentations can cover a wide range of topics – how to motivate a reluctant reader, tips for organizing groups, how to use portfolios, etc.

Please take the time to share what you know. We are looking forward to learning more.

PLANNING

Just as when you present in a face-to-face setting, planning is a key component. You need to think about the following:

- Do you need slides, movies, handouts (notecards in SL)?

Just as in a face-to-face session, many appreciate a handout, which is known as a notecard in Second Life. The notecard can contain text, websites, and landmarks.

If you are using visuals such as slides or videos, more prep time is required. If someone is hosting your event, you should contact them to see if they have a slide viewer or media player already configured. They can help you set these up. If you are using slides, they will need to be saved as JPEGs and uploaded to SL. Please see the information on tools below for further information.

- Do you plan to use chat text, voice, or a combination of both?

The main form of communication in Second Life is the use of chat text. If you are prone to lots of typos, a Speakeasy HUD may be a helpful tool as it lets you enter text prior to your presentation and allows you to display the text as you go. One of the advantages to using chat is that the history can be saved and reviewed later. In recent months, the ability to use voice has been added to Second Life. Some presenters now use voice. In order to use voice, however, all participants must have voice enabled in their Preferences in order to hear the presentation and a set of headphones with a microphone lend to the improved quality of speech. Voice also carries further than text chat so it is polite to plan ahead to make sure your presentation will not interfere with the neighbors.

- Where will your presentation be held?

You will need to find a venue for presenting if you do not have a place of your own. Some groups and places in Second Life are willing to host educator events -- Lighthouse Learning, Discovery Educator Network (DEN) in Second Life, and ISTE are some options.

- How will you promote your presentation?

Once you have a date and place determined, it is time to advertise. If you blog or twitter, this is a good place to start. In Second Life, you can advertise to the groups you belong to. You can also ask your host to advertise for you.

PRESENTATION ETIQUETTE

- People frequently IM the presenter during the event. This can be quite distracting. You may wish to let your audience know you will not reply to IMs during the presentation but will take questions later.
- Having a buddy to lend support can be invaluable. This way they can guide people to the venue and help those who have questions while you make last minute preparations. It is advantageous to establish a communication link with your partner (for example, Skype) to coordinate your efforts better. This can be very helpful if you crash. Your partner can explain to your guests what has happened and that you will be returning. This has happened to us on more than one occasion.
- Please respect your audience and adhere to the timeframe you set for the main part of the presentation. You might want to arrive early to greet people as they arrive. It is helpful to plan for a 1/2 hour extended time for further questions and discussions.

PRESENTATION TOOLS

Three commonly used tools in Second Life are:

- Slide Presenter
- Media Player
- Speakeasy HUD

With the advent of voice in Second Life, the Speakeasy is not used as much since the speaker can now use their own voice.

Below are descriptions of the three tools used in today's presentation. There are other 'brands' of these tools available in SL; some are easier to use than others. Before acquiring your own tools, it might be worth checking out other available tools.

TOOLS USED IN THIS PRESENTATION

- Communal Whiteboard

The Communal Whiteboard is a tool that displays images. It is most commonly used to show PowerPoint or Keynote slides. Slides are saved as JPEG files on your computer and uploaded to Second Life. Each slide needs to be uploaded for L\$10. When you upload your slides, they will be saved in your Inventory as Textures. A hint is to rename each slide to allow ordering them either numerically or alphabetically. For example Slide1, Slide2, etc. Once your images are uploaded to Second Life, they then need to be added to the Whiteboard.

Where to Purchase: School Store on Edivisland II, 198, 195, 22

What to Purchase: AngryBeth Shortbread's Educational Tools are packaged in a white box labeled MetaLab.

Cost: L\$5

Box Contains: Communal White Board, Online Monitor, Hand Show Chair, Event Timer, Directions on How to Use the Tools

- SpeakEasy HUD

SpeakEasy is worn as a heads up display. It reads the contents of a notecard one line at a time. If you are giving a presentation, you can preload your presentation by typing the main part of your content on a note card and then simply click a button to display each line in your presentation. The SpeakEasy originated with Janor Slichter and is available from EduNation. It is also in the box handed out at the presentation.

- Media Player

Lighthouse Learning

The DCE Media Centers was created by Dilbert Cleanslate Enterprises. It allows the playing of movies, images and audio. SL lets you only play movies that QuickTime will play so to see if the video you wish to play will work in SL you should try to play in QuickTime first. Streaming video and audio will only work on land you own. If you are presenting on someone else's land please contact them to set up streaming video for you.

Where to Purchase: Winnipeg 105, 178, 403

Cost: L\$500

DEN in SL

The Media Player uses in the DEN was created by Ben Linden .

SAVING A SLIDE IN POWERPOINT AS A PICTURE

- Display the slide you want to save as a picture.
- On the File menu, click Save As.
- In the Save As type list, select the graphics format you want, and then click Save.
- Do one of the following:

If you want to save only the current slide select Current Slide Only.

If you want to save every slide in a presentation select Every Slide.