

The Global Kids' Digital Media Initiative's **Digital Media Essay Contest**

Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Teacher Evaluation Form Summation

We invited the ten educators involved from start to finish to share their thoughts with us about the DMEC. The following are their responses.

LESSON PLANS USED:

Lesson Plan 1	8 educators
Lesson Plan 2	6 educators
Lesson Plan 3	2 educators

Do you have any comments on the lessons?

Very helpful. They were a good starting point to introduce the contest and get the students' thinking about the subject.

It was a very useful lesson but it would have been nice to have it longer before they tackled the project. We came on board late, though. I would like to have the lessons at least 6 weeks before the essays are due; to read about the project and lessons and present them to the kids.

I found all the lessons to be useful. I saved them and will use them in future classes to promote an understanding of the digital age in which they live.

All were very useful!

The lesson plans were interesting and well thought out.

The lessons were great. They were very straight forward and engaging for all the students.

I thought the lesson was well put together and a great way to get students thinking about the topic of digital media.

I thought the lessons were very education friendly. My students liked them and I had no trouble getting approval from my administration.

Very helpful for the students' concept of the process

OTHER RESOURCES USED:

The DMEC Web site	5 educators
Email Access to GK	5 educators
Student Flyer	4 educators
Phone Conference	3 educators
Teacher Stipend	3 educators
Packet of winning essays	3 educators
Student Stipend	2 educators
The blog with the winning essays/quotes	2 educators

Do you have any comments about any of the above items?

The web site was helpful. The student stipend was a motivator.

I never was able to download the archived phone conference.

I think the student stipend flyer really encouraged my students to write. Knowing that they all received something for their efforts helped encourage them. As a teacher, I appreciate any extra cash. I found the email to be informative and helpful.

The website with the forms and entry information was very helpful. In addition, the support from the staff was invaluable.

All were very good!

Instructions were easy to follow. Even though I missed the conference call I listen to the recorded version which helped.

The phone conference was very helpful in mapping out the objectives for the essay contest.

I think all of the resources were very helpful. I have a lot of experience with essay contests, and none have been as thorough as yours. I very much appreciate the teacher stipend, as most contests do nothing to recognize the teachers' input.

From the initial phone conference to the packet of winning essays, I have viewed this as a very professional activity. I have not been overwhelmed with emails but had good communication. My students are looking forward to the stipend and I must admit I am also. I feel great that almost 20% of the essays were from little old Belpre, Ohio.

Did you find it easy or hard to have your students complete the essays? Please detail.

Most students had no problem sharing their thoughts. Digital media is such a huge part of their everyday lives, they had lots of things to share.

If we had more time to work on them it would have been easier. We had 8 team members in high school but only 3 would complete an essay.

I made it mandatory since we were using class time to do the lessons. I allowed students to choose if they wanted to submit it or not, but they all had to write it.

The only difficulty with doing the essay was that the assignment was broad. I think they wanted a little more direction. For example, give two or three tasks that they must address.

I wish we had a bit more time for the process. We would have had more entries had we had more time to promote statewide.

I think we did not get the students to complete their essays because we did not have many sessions with them. Our program only meets every other Saturday, so the timing for us was a little off. We had to ask students to complete the essays at home, which did not work well for us.

It was a little difficult for my students to complete the essays. I did not require it as I had to focus primarily on my curriculum. I gave the essay assignment to all my students and conducted the workshops in my Advisory. I think that the essay length scared some of the students away for they are not used to writing that much for their classes.

I offered this as an extra credit opportunity, so I found it easy for students to complete the essays. The extra credit, plus \$10 gift certificate, was very appealing to some students.

I made it a class assignment so all completed them but only about 50% submitted them for the competition. I made the due date a little earlier for those competing so this probable accounts for the number not participating. I have some other good ones that I read as the teacher.

I had difficulty with the same students completing the essay that I have completing assignments in my science classes. I had two students that copied information from the INTERNET, and they were the same students that I have had difficulty in the past with plagiarism.

Did participating in the essay contest had an impact on your student? If so, how?

Yes. It opened some dialog and was a source for sharing experiences. Some students even gave tips to others about staying safe on the Internet.

They all got valuable essay practice and learned quite a bit about how digital media impacts them. They hadn't considered before how much it did affect them and kids around them.

I think it encouraged students to think about how much they use technology and digital media and how that differs from generations past. Also, the winning students experienced a huge ego boost, and I think that was worth all the effort.

I think it had an immense impact on Dahye Ham, one of the winners. She felt extremely accomplished and proud. As a graduating senior going to Binghamton, she is feeling great anxiety and apprehension but this contest gave her great confidence. Other students were also affected by their participation in the contest because they felt as if someone wanted to hear what they had to say, in a way, the contest gave them a sense of agency.

Yes, our Tech Team got very involved. We had lots of interest, some after the deadline.

Due to the poor response, I don't think it had much of an impact.

No.

I believe any student becomes a better writer by going through the drafting process and sticking with it until he has a polished essay that he's proud to send to a contest. I think the topic was very relevant and got students thinking about how digital media plays a role in their lives.

I think our winners were excited and it seemed the others were happy for them.

Yes. He was very excited about being judged as an equal with other students in areas of the country with larger populations. Our high school has less than 400 students, and the whole state of Wyoming has less than 500,000 people.

Do you have any other thoughts, comments or suggestions regarding the DMEC?

It's a great way to encourage critical thinking and writing.

It was a neat program. Thank-you for letting us be involved!

I'm glad that I accidentally stumbled upon this contest. We enjoyed participating.

On the next essay contest, there should be clear tasks for students to address. For example, the essay topic and tasks could have read like this:

TOPIC: Digit media has greatly changed the world we live in.

TASKS: *Discuss positive effects digital media has had on the life of young people

*Discuss negative effects digital media has had on the life of young people

*Explain how young people could use this medium to bring about positive change around the world

Our program really appreciated the opportunity presented and hopes that next time, should there be a next time, our students will take better advantage.

Please let us know if you sponsor another contest. It was a lot of fun!

I would be interested in participating in future endeavors.

I thought it was a good opportunity for the students to feel their opinion had some value.