Distance Learning Notes November 2013

Denver Art Museum offers Sponsored K-12 DL Classes

The Denver Art Museum (DAM) is offering several 'Virtual Classroom' distance learning programs in the 2013-2014 school year. Videoconferencing equipment can bring the museum and its staff into a K-12 classroom. DAM can customize a virtual classroom experience that will challenge students to think critically, solve problems, and generate new ideas. These art sessions are intended to enhance the creativity and engagement of learning in any discipline or subject area.

In May of 2013, 4th and 5th grade students from Silverton School participated in an interactive video distance learning session with DAM. They were working on an American history project in which each student would create a personal work of art that symbolized America and her fundamental beliefs. The topic "Overcome Creative Blocks" served as an introduction to their projects by preparing the students to begin looking for inspiration and gathering ideas for their work of art.

Silverton 4th & 5th grade teacher Kylee Shipp said, "Our students' virtual class with the Denver Art Museum gave them an amazing preparation for their projects with detailed background knowledge about artists and how they work."

Students engaged in discussion and actively participated to create their own mini inspiration walls the way some artists do. Prior to the distance learning session, the students had also visited the Denver Art Museum as part of a field trip to Denver. Since the students were familiar with the museum and many of the works of art, they were able to make strong connections to the art and artists during the virtual course.

2013-2014 Course Topics:

How Do Artists Solve Problems?

- Grades K-5: Collaborate to Create
- Grades 3-8: Overcome Creative Blocks
- Grades 6-12: Creativity Takes Courage

Project-Based Museum Learning: Grades 1-12

All courses address 2009 Colorado Academic Standards and 21st Century Skills. These programs typically cost $100 per session, but a limited number of pre-paid programs are available on a first-come-first-served basis for public schools in Colorado. Call for more info.

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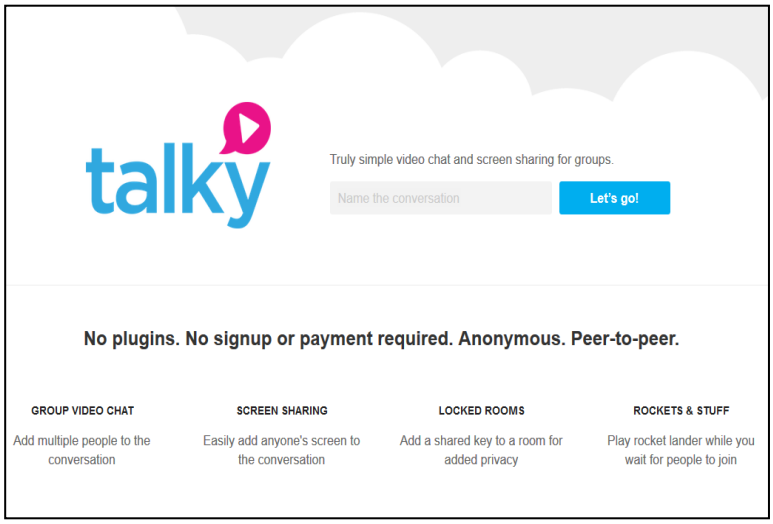
For more Denver Art Museum resources, visit http://creativity.denverartmuseum.org/ and subscribe to the Denver Art Museum e-newsletter.

Teaching is an art. To bring art into your classroom, visit http://creativity.denverartmuseum.org for free access to more than 600 age-adaptable lesson plans illustrated with more than 130 different works of art from the Denver Art Museum's collection.

WebRTC (Real Time Communication) Update:

Our April newsletter reported on a simplified videoconferencing technology called WebRTC (Web Real Time Communication) that will bring easy-to-use, device independent videoconferencing to common browsers. We optimistically reported: "A new technology is arriving called WebRTC… WebRTC is an emerging standard that enables users to make voice and video calls through Web browsers without needing to implement a multimedia client or plugin. WebRTC holds the promise of making real-time interactive video on the Web ubiquitous, truly easy to use, and cheap(er) or even free, enriching all DL applications."



The first widely-available demonstration of that concept is now open for users to experience at: https://talky.io/.

As the opening screen says, it requires no plugins, no signup or payment, and it is anonymous and peer-to-peer.

It currently works only with the most recent versions of the Chrome and Firefox browsers, and not with Microsoft Explorer, Safari, or Opera.

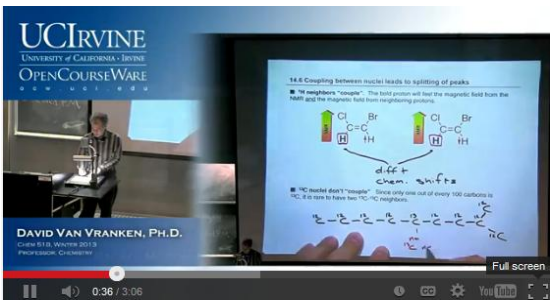
Try it!

Video Link:

UC Irvine OpenChem

http://media.learn.uci.edu/openchem/

Advanced High school students who want to see what university level chemistry classes look like should check out UC Irvine's OpenChem offering. What UCI hopes to do with the OpenChem initiative is to present a coherent, full curriculum by a top faculty. Today, a learner can sit in UCI lecture halls and follow four years' worth of chemistry core classes and electives via OpenChem. professors. The video lectures are free for use in high school chemistry classes.



UCI OpenChem provides free and open access to 15 quarter-length undergraduate and select graduate chemistry video lectures.

The project was the brainchild of lauded UCI Chemistry Professor James Nowick, whose three classes of Organic Chemistry lectures have been viewed thousands of times and have earned praise from students around the world.