

Creating Photo Stories

Having students create Photo Stories to teach others or to demonstrate learning is an effective tool for integrating technology and media into the classroom. Photo Story is a free application from Microsoft that enables the user to create a presentation utilizing digital photos and images. It allows the user to add effects, narration, music, and other elements to enhance the presentation. If a computer does not currently have the Photo Story software, it is available as a free download at www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp.

Photo Stories are relatively easy to develop and do not take an inordinate amount of time to prepare once the user is familiar with the program. There are a variety of Photo Story tutorials available on the Internet simply by searching "Photo Story tutorial." Links to three tutorials are available at www.smp.org/LivinginChrist.

The basic steps for creating a Photo Story presentation are as follows:

1. Conduct research on the assigned topic. Obtain data, pictures, and images that will help create an academically solid Photo Story on your topic.
2. Click on the Photo Story icon on your computer.
3. Click on the Import Pictures button and select and import the photos you previously chose.
4. Follow the tutorials to edit, arrange, and organize your photos.
5. Add titles, explanations, and effects (follow the tutorials).
6. Use the Customize Motion button to include motion and transitions in your Photo Story.
7. Follow the tutorials to narrate, add music, save, and export your story.

