



Shakespeare's Sonnets and Multimedia

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's Sonnets, we at NextVista.org are running a project encouraging young people everywhere to share their insights on these poems.

Those interested are invited to create a video centered on any one of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets. The video should follow this format:

1. a title screen which includes the number of the sonnet
2. an audio recording of one reading the sonnet
3. one or more insights on the meaning of the poem (provided following the reading of the sonnet)
4. end titles with a proper citation of all visuals and any other audio used in the piece

Rules:

1. Students should not include their names in either text or speech in the video.
2. Visual content must be copyright-friendly and properly cited (see example below).
3. Videos must be no longer than five minutes, and may be short, as long as the audio of the poem, the insight(s), and all necessary titles are properly included.
4. Content must not be presented in a way that is inappropriate for young audiences.
5. Insights should be well explained and given with clear reference to specific pieces of the poem.
6. If any audio other than the voice of the person reading the poem and providing the insight is used in the piece, then it, too, needs to be from a copyright-friendly source (see example below).
7. For videos to be considered as part of a contest (see below), the video will also need to have subtitles for all audio of speech.

Submitting a Video:

Files can be in any format, though Next Vista prefers common file types, such as QuickTime (.mov) and Windows Media (.wmv) formats. Follow these steps:

1. Make sure you have exported the file such that it is not larger than 100MB and send it to info@nextvista.org using the free service of <http://YouSendIt.com>. You may also mail it to us on CD (Next Vista for Learning / PO Box 149 / Santa Clara, CA 95052 / USA).
2. E-mail Next Vista (info@nextvista.org) with your name, your location (just city and state/province/country), and the length, and description of the video. This information is for tracking purposes, and names of minors will not be used on the website.
3. Next Vista will review the video and contact you within four weeks of receipt to let you know whether it will be added to the site. Be prepared for the possibility of being contacted with a request that you make minor changes to the video (i.e., don't delete the project file).

Citations and Copyright:

Students may use footage or pictures of their own creation (cited as their own work) or from copyright-friendly sources (cited with the name of the work, the person who created/uploaded it, and the web site from which it was taken).

For visuals, we suggest using Flickr with the Creative Commons option checked in the advanced search tool. Alternatively, one might go to <http://search.creativecommons.org>, select the Flickr tab, and then search for visuals

that way (make sure to use the search field in the green, upper part of the screen). For all Flickr content, results should be identified as "Showing Creative Commons-licensed content". For example:

dog & cat by Yukari*
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/yukariryu/121153772/>

For audio, please use copyright-friendly material and follow the same format, as in:

Encuentros by DeAmalia
<http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/22503>

Please keep in mind that Next Vista is not responsible for the content of any site from which copyright-friendly media might be used. Teachers should know that sites like Flickr and Jamendo, which contain large amounts of helpful and interesting content, also have visual and audio material that may not be appropriate for a school setting.

Contest:

While videos from this project will be accepted at any time, we will recognize the best submissions at our annual Next Vista Awards Night. To be eligible for this recognition and the accompanying certificate this year, videos will need to have been received by October 9th, 2009. Submissions received after October 9th will be considered for recognition at the 2010 Awards Night.

Additionally, it is possible that exceptional videos will be highlighted on other web sites, including that of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London. Officials there will make final decisions on which, if any, of the submissions in this contest will be shown on their site.

Remember that for a video to be considered as part of a contest, there must be subtitles for the poem and shared insights.

At its annual Awards Night, Next Vista for Learning also awards the Distinguished Content Creator certificate to any person or group which provides five or more videos of sufficient quality for inclusion in any of the online library's collections. Should a school provide five entries to this project which can be added to the online library, we would like to be able to contact a participating teacher regarding the award.

Resources:

Wikipedia Entry on Shakespeare's Sonnets
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespeare%27s_sonnets

Creative Commons Search:
<http://search.creativecommons.org>

Grabbing Copyright-Friendly Media from Websites
http://nextvista.org/projects/Project-Citing_Copyright-Friendly_Media_from_Online.pdf

Those with questions about this or other NextVista.org projects are welcome to send them via e-mail to:
info@nextvista.org

It is our intention that this project help students learn more about Shakespeare's writings, better understand and handle copyright issues in multimedia projects, and share their insights with peers everywhere. We hope this project will generate creative and interesting videos that will be enjoyed for many years to come, and look forward to sharing your efforts with others around the world!