

Click and Construct: Using Digital Cameras to Improve the Writing Skills

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Why the Digital Camera?

- Ease of use by students
- Students are visual
 - motivated to write about what they see and capture with a camera
- Research shows that student writing improves through writing often.
 - Take a picture each day and write
 - Write about an image that is important
- Reluctant writers
 - overwhelmed by the whole writing process
 - trouble getting started unless assigned a topic
- Spark the composing process of writing
- Personal photos can help build risk takers excited about reading and writing.

Ideas for Using a Digital Camera in the Writing Process

- Class Newspapers
- Reports
- Fiction
- Letters to Penpals
- Class Books
- Alphabet Books
- Illustrate Sequences
- Document Class Activities
- Prompt Memory
- Sequencing
- Autobiographical Reports
- Document Field Trips
- Illustrating Opposites
- Compare and Contrast
- Illustrate Adjectives
- Make Inferences or Deductions
- Illustrate Scenes for Story Writing
- How-to Essays
- “Concentration” game
- Document characters or the setting in a story
- Creative writing from random photos
- Guess what an extreme close-up is
- Comic strip story with speech bubbles



My Bike and I

Resources

Web Learning

- ABC's of the Writing Process - www.angelfire.com/wi/writingprocess
- Webbes Books - www.realebooks.com
- A Complete Guide to Digital Cameras - www.shortcourses.com
- Adobe Digital Kids Club - www.adobe.com/education/digkids

Web Purchasing

- CNET – www.cnet.com
- Digital Photography Review - www.dpreview.com

Books

- I Wanna Take Me a Picture: Teaching Photography and Writing to Children by Wendy Ewald and Alexandra Lightfoot - ISBN: 0807031410
- Digital Photography in the Classroom – Teacher Created Materials - TCM3601
- Picture This : Digital and Instant Photography Activities for Early Childhood Learning by Sheri Lyn Galarza and Susan Entz - ISBN: 0803968876
- Click! a Book About Cameras and Taking Pictures by Gail Gibbons - ISBN: 0316309761
- Photography Guide For Kids by Neil L. Johnson - ISBN: 0792263707

Importing Photographs into Microsoft Word.

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Inserting a picture from a file:

1. Click where you want to insert the picture.
2. On the **Insert** menu, point to **Picture**, and then click **From File**.
3. Locate the picture you want to insert.
4. Double-click the picture you want to insert.

Notes

By default, Microsoft Word embeds pictures in a document. You can reduce the size of a file by linking a picture. In the Insert Picture dialog box (Insert menu, From File submenu), click the picture, click the arrow to the right of the Insert button, and then click Link to File.

You can also insert drawings, photographs, sounds, videos, and other media files by using the Microsoft Clip Organizer.



Inserting a Picture directly from a camera or scanner plugged to computer

For this procedure, make sure your device is TWAIN- or WIA-compatible and is connected to your computer. You should also make sure that you have installed the device software that supports TWAIN or WIA.

1. Set up the picture in the scanning device.
2. On the **Insert** menu, point to **Picture**, and then click **From Scanner or Camera**.
3. If you have more than one device attached to your computer, under **Device**, select the device you want to use.
4. Do one of the following:
 - o If the selected device is a scanner, and you want to use default settings for scanning the image, click **Web Quality** (if you are going to show your picture on the screen) or **Print Quality** (if you are going to print your picture), and then click **Insert** to scan your picture.
 - o If the selected device is not a scanner (for example, if it's a digital camera) or you want to customize any settings before you scan the picture, click **Custom Insert**. Follow the instructions that come with the device you're using.

Note The **Insert** button might be unavailable with some scanners because the scanner software doesn't support an automatic scan. Use the **Custom Insert** button instead.

Editing Photographs in Microsoft Word

Before you begin, open the Picture Toolbar

Click on the View pulldown menu and choose Toolbars and then Picture. This will bring up the picture toolbar.



Crop a picture

1. Select the picture you want to crop.
2. On the **Picture** toolbar, click **Crop**.
3. Position the cropping tool over a cropping handle and then do one of the following:
 - o To crop one side, drag the center handle on that side inward.
 - o To crop equally on two sides at once, hold down CTRL as you drag the center handle on either side inward.
 - o To crop equally on all four sides at once, hold down CTRL as you drag a corner handle inward.
4. On the **Picture** toolbar, click **Crop** to turn off the **Crop** command.

Reducing a picture's dimensions

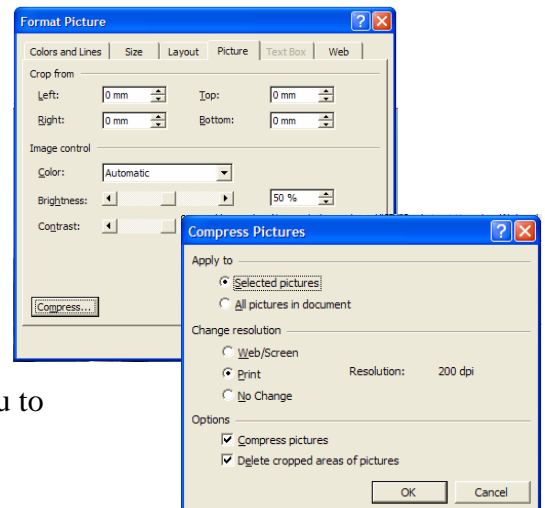
Click once on the picture to bring up the "handles" around the image. Click and hold on a corner handle and drag the image to the size you want.

Reducing a picture's file size

To save room on your hard disk or to reduce download time, you can use the **Compress Pictures** feature to do the following:

- Reduce resolution (to 96 dots per inch (dpi) for Web and 200 dpi for print), and unnecessary information is discarded.
- Discard extra information. For example, when a picture has been cropped or resized, the "hidden" parts of the picture are stored in the file.

Once the image is on the page, double click on it to bring up the "Format Picture" box. Click on the "Picture" tab and the "Compress" button. This allows you to compress the picture.



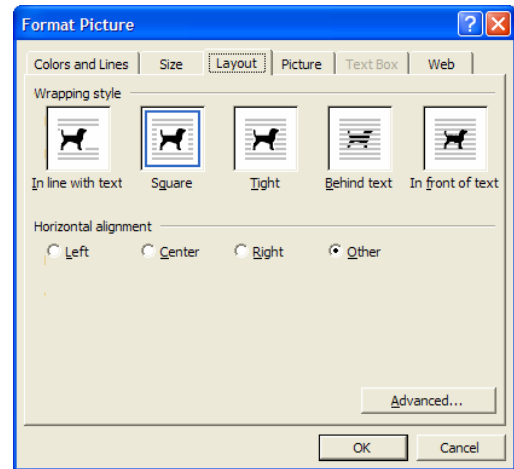
Wrapping Text around and Image or Floating it on the Page

By default, when you import a picture into Word, it behaves like text. That is, the image sits so the base is on the bottom of the text line and behaves like any character in a word - it can only be moved within the page by adding spaces in front or returns.

To give you full control of where the image sits on the page and to allow you to build a template for your students to write, follow these instructions.

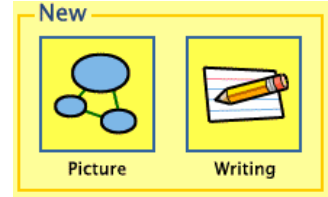
Double click on the image that you placed on the document. The Format Picture box will appear. Click on the Layout tab and click on the box that represents either Square or Tight. You can also choose the horizontal alignment as well but it is not necessary. The Advanced button gives you a little more adjustment.

Next click OK and return to your document. You can now click and drag your image around the page. Any text entered later will wrap around the image.





Kidspiration and Digital Photos Creating in Picture View

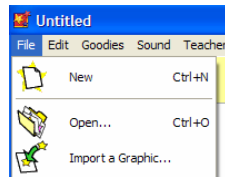


Step-by-step:

1. Open Kidspiration and select Picture View
2. Click inside the **First Idea** to type a topic name or main idea

Importing Digital Photos

1. Go to the **File Menu**



2. Slide down to **Import a Graphic**
3. Locate the **Folder** containing the graphic
4. Once you find it click on **Open**
5. The graphic will show up on the

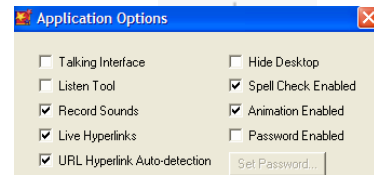
page

6. You can resize by clicking on the graphic's red anchors, drag in or out to resize
7. Each imported photo will have a text box to write in



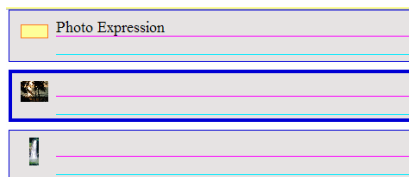
Drag and Drop

1. You can drag and Drop photos as well – but you must first Enable the Teacher Menu so that you have access to the desktop
2. Once you Enable the teacher menu, go back to the Teacher menu and slide down to Application Options and uncheck the Hide Desktop feature and click OK
3. Minimize Kidspiration to view more of the desktop
4. Locate the folder where the photo is stored
5. When you locate the photo drag it onto the the Kidspiration page



Copy and Paste

1. To Copy and Paste a graphic **open** the graphic first
2. Go to the **Edit menu** and select **Copy** (or use MAC Quick Key Command - C)(Ctrl – C)
3. Go to your Kidspiration page click on a **white space** where you want the graphic to be placed
4. Go to the **Edit menu** and select **Paste** (or use MAC Quick Key Command - P)(Ctrl – P)



New in Kidspiration 2

In Writing View Kidspiration now allows the user to see the clipart or photo that is represented in picture view.

Rules for Using the Camera

- One pair of hands on the camera at a time
- Allow each person in the group to have an equal chance with the camera
- Make sure the group knows what it is going to do before the camera is checked out
- Keep the camera dry and clean
- Keep the camera in its storage case when not in use
- Report any malfunction to the teacher right away
- Use the neck strap to prevent accidents
- Be sure the batteries are fully charged



Glossary of Terms:

TWAIN

A cross-platform interface for acquiring electronic images that have been captured by scanners, digital cameras, and still-frame video capture boards.

JPG or JPEG

An image file format popular for photographs. Most digital cameras produce images in JPG format.

Embed

To insert information created in one program, such as a chart or an equation, into another program. After the object is embedded, the information becomes part of the document.

Linking

Used to insert a copy of information created in one program into another program's document while maintaining a connection between the two files. When the information changes in the source file, the changes are reflected in the destination document.

Cropped

To trim vertical or horizontal edges of an object. Pictures are often cropped to focus attention on a particular area and reduce file size.

Toolbar

A bar with buttons and options that you use to carry out commands. To display a toolbar, use the Customize dialog box (point to Toolbars on the View menu and click Customize). To see more buttons, click Toolbar Options at the end of the toolbar.

WIA-compatible (Windows Image Acquisition)

A device-driver interface that supports still digital cameras and low and high-end scanners, and allows retrieving of still images from IEEE 1394 (Firewire)-based DV camcorders and USB-based "Web cams."