What is Museum Box?

Museum Box is based on the work of Thomas Clarkson who collected items in a box to help him in his argument for the abolition of slavery. He collected items in a box to demonstrate to others the fine craftsmanship and abilities of the African culture. He used his box as a sort of travelling museum to aid him in his debate. The Museum Box website provides a place for students to collect information and arguments in a virtual museum box of their own. They can collect items to provide a description, or add to an argument of a historical event, place, or time period. Students can add images, text, sounds, video, external links, etc. to each compartment of the box helping them form their own virtual museum. The Museum Box can be shared as a presentation, saved, or printed. After a box has been created, students can view each others' boxes and leave comments.

How to integrate Museum Box into the classroom:

Use Museum Box as a medium for students to learn about and collect information about a historical event, person, or time period. Because students can upload their own content to Museum Box, you might also have them create a box all about them. This would be a great way for students to get to know each other at the beginning of the year. Museum box is a neat way to share information about geography. Students can make a box all about a place including items in their box that are unique to that place. The ability to incorporate text, sounds, images, video, and uploaded items makes Museum Box especially impressive! After students have created boxes, spend time viewing others' boxes and leaving comments about them. This is kind of like a science fair atmosphere for history, geography, and literature.

Strengths:

- Museum Box provides a unique method for students to create projects.
- It provides a new twist for research papers and thesis papers.
- Museum Box allows students to use a variety of information to complete the project instead of a limited format like traditional papers.
- While completing a project that utilized Museum Box, students will have to practice organization skills to complete the task.
- Museum Box can be utilized as a collaborative assignment.
- Can be implemented in a Teacher-Assisted Center in an Elementary School classroom

Weaknesses:

- Museum Box utilizes a complex layering system that may be too difficult for some students to use.
- This would be better suited for secondary students instead of elementary students. Some middle school students may struggle with this tool.
- If students review previous boxes that have already been completed, there is a chance for erroneous information that is contained within them.

Opportunities:

- Museum Box allows students the opportunity to complete creative projects.
- Students can incorporate video, audio, text, PowerPoint presentations, and external links within a Museum Box project.
- For complex themes such as the Civil War or World War II, students could be divided to complete different "cubes" for a whole class assignment to complete it collaboratively.

Threats:

- Inappropriate material could be easily added within the Museum Box project via images, text, and video.

Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Students could complete "cubes" for different important people within a time period for History classes.
- In Language Arts classes, students could complete a Museum Box for the different aspects of a character in a fictional story (strengths, weaknesses, beliefs, etc.).
- For Art classes, students could complete projects based on art periods, artistic styles, groups of artists, and different elements of art.
- Students could complete a Museum Box for a Science classification project.
- In Math classes, students could complete a Museum Box for different geometry aspects (one cube for an oval, one for a triangle, etc.).
- For literature assignments, students could create a project utilizing video clips, short passages, and other text for different authors.
- Elementary School students can use this format for a book report or book review, guided by a Teacher Created Rubric
- Could also house electronic portfolios documenting student work/progress.

Registration and Creating Student Accounts:

http://museumbox.e2bn.org/teachers/view.php?id=74