

Hope Beyond Hype

Making your own comics after reading Hope Beyond Hype

Overview

In the context of science, comics and graphic stories allow readers to engage with scientific concepts and processes in a different, and enjoyable, way. By nature, they are visually appealing and involve elements of story-telling - allowing the reader to get involved in the story and the science, compelling them to keep reading.

Encouraging students to make their own comics has multiple benefits. Students are creatively engaged in thinking about the science concepts and ideas but from a different perspective. Students can find the task of creating a comic appealing and it can be useful to help them critically think about their own ideas and opinions on a subject. Finally, making comics in the classroom is a great way to support cross-curricular activity. This short summary offers some ideas and background information on creating comics in the classroom.

Sources of information

The guardian teachers network has a good section on using comics in the classroom.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/teacher-network/2012/aug/26/teaching-with-comic-books>

This educational blog has a nice summary:
Free Technology for Teachers: 10 ways to create comics online
<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/12/10-ways-to-create-comics-online.html>

The blog above gives you 10 options for creating comics online. Many are free, but in some cases you can use a version of the programme for free and then they offer you more functions if you pay. These are the ones we had play with and thought were particularly good.

Pixton: www.pixton.com

Make Beliefs Comix: www.makebeliefscomix.com

The Superhero Squad (under 'activities'): www.marvelkids.com

Making a comic about Hope Beyond Hype

Give students time to read and discuss Hope Beyond Hype. Then set them a task to create a comic strip along the following lines:

1. Pick a topic covered in the book e.g. using animals in research, using embryos in research, how stem cells can be used. Your task is to create a comic strip giving more information about that topic.
2. Imagine you are having a conversation with one of the characters in the comic. Your task is to create a comic strip about what you would talk about.
3. Pick one of the characters in Hope Beyond Hype. Imagine they are at home with their family talking about their day at work. Your task is to make a comic strip about that conversation.



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