2013 SITE Conference Proposal

Jamaal Young  
University of North Texas  
Teacher Education  
Assistant Professor  
1155 Union Circle Denton, TX  
(940) 565 – 4632

Jemimah Young  
University of North Texas  
Teacher Education  
Lecturer  
1155 Union Circle Denton, TX  
(940) 565 – 4421

Submission Categories:

Virtual Corporate Presentation

Related Topics:

Games & Simulations  
Virtual Schooling  
K-12 Teachers and School Leaders

Title:

STEMulations: Purposefully Repurposing PowerPoint Technology for Socially Situated Simulations

Details:

Simulations provide a means to reinforce instruction that utilizes the aspects and nuances of situated learning theory. Simulations are most notable in the area of medical teaching and research. However, recently a proliferation in virtual environments and interactions that simulate reality is being used in K-12 educational settings. In order to keep pace with the current generation of digital natives, preservice teacher preparation programs must equip students with digital learning techniques that are affordable, as well as user friendly. We contend to repurpose PowerPoint technologies to create classroom-learning simulations, as a viable means to this end.

PowerPoint is readily available in most k-12 educational setting, and teachers are typically familiar with its basic functionality. Familiarity is crucial, as eliminates the anxiety associated with learning new technical skills. This, in turn, can serve as a catalyst to move teachers more rapidly through the progression from novice developers to advanced simulation functionality in a fraction of the cost and time it would take to purchase and learn other advanced technologies designed specifically to create learning simulations.