**Animoto**

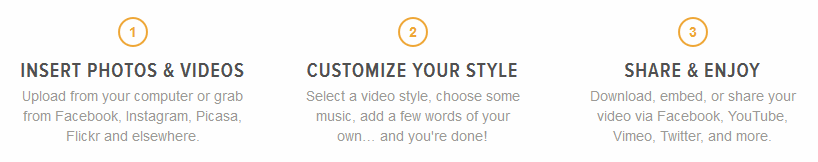
An online presence cannot be complete without video. Think about all of the streaming and downloads you access on a daily basis. Short clips entertain us. They grab our attention. Using a free, video-sharing site called Animoto, you will create a video using one of the following options:

1. Capture the essence of who you are by sharing five+ facts about you (from your autobiography)
2. Share five+ reasons why your life is awesome/reasons to be thankful/most proud moments <- my example
3. Review, revise, and use your five+ most important bucket list aspirations

Once you have decided your option, circle it. You will need any combination of original pictures and video clips to create this. The catch? You have 30 seconds to do so. Viewers do not have the time to watch full-length videos. You get bored easily, too. Make a lasting impression with the pictures and/or videos that you take.

**If you need to borrow a camera during school hours or want me to take pictures of items you bring in with my own camera, ask. Plan ahead. Email me an appointment time. Procrastination is not an option!**

Following these steps to create your Animoto after you sign up for a free account:

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Add a title image using PowerPoint. Five pictures must contain a caption phrase.

Go ahead and download a song from <http://incompetech.com/music/royalty-free/> that captures the vibe of your video. You want to use a clip from the newest, coolest song on the radio? Read this <http://studentpressblogs.org/nspa/the-non-existent-30-second-rule/> and say no to ~~drugs~~ songs without artist approval.

See my example here <http://animoto.com/play/FQti2RxXfmGf7bz9NYSaeg>.

Does it seem way too short to you? Want to add more? Create two or three Animoto videos and slap them together using Windows Movie Maker. If you want to overachieve, I will not judge. ☺

Finished? Add a title, description, and save. Share and embed to your home page within your portfolio.

According to Webster’s definition, a dream is an idea or vision that is created in your imagination and that is not real. Dreams are imaginary? Not mine. I should remember how fortunate I am. Every dream that I have hoped for is real and I thank God every day for the grit not to give up on those aspirations. It is a rarity when, in this very moment, my list of dreams has dwindled to zero. Here’s my David Letterman-style Top Ten Most Proud Moments:

1. Making a commitment to the Lord and letting him lead me in life.
2. Marrying Nick in Ochos Rios, Jamaica. I never thought I could love someone so much.
3. Having Isabella and Vincenzo, two adorable children. At one point we were not going to have kids. That would have been a rotten mistake.
4. Learning how-to raise my children through my own mother whose selflessness is truly extraordinary.
5. Becoming a technology teacher. I love my profession dearly. I fear failure. To be given positive feedback that I am making a difference is important so I cherish the letters, words, awards from my beloved students, parents, coworkers, and administrators.
6. Purchasing this pretty-close-to-forever home. It is beautiful in every sense of the word. I never thought we could ever, financially, leave the condo. With help from family members, we did.
7. Having a few genuine friends. I’ve never had many close, share my grows and glows with type, but the ones I do have are incredible. Thank you so much for making me a better person.
8. Sharing my joy for writing with national publications. Being a published author is insanely cool even if it is only for my brief articles on technology geekiness.
9. Finally enjoying the inner dork in me and not allowing others to dictate who I should be. Ask Nick. He can attest to how lame my jokes are.
10. Discovering PF Chang’s dynamite shrimp. It is that good.

I am 30. My new goals have shifted from what I want to accomplish in life to what I can do to help my kids meet happiness. I’m assuming one of those moments will be roasting a crispy golden-brown marshmallow on an open flame for the first time. Only time will tell.