Quickfires Explained

On August 19, 2009, in Design, educational technology, Featured, by Leigh Graves Wolf

What is a Quick Fire Challenge?

The Quickfire Challenge is something that has been developing over the past 3 summers during my teaching with the overseas Master of Arts in Educational Technology program at MSU. For the past 3 summers I have co-taught “year 3”: CEP 807, CEP 817 and CEP 818.

The idea is not original, it was inspired by the reality competition show, Top Chef. (As you may be able to tell by some of the posts on my blog, I’m very interested in the Culinary Arts.) In a nutshell, in each episode, the chefs are challenged to cook a dish with certain constraints (i.e. ingredients, themes) within a tight time frame. As I watched the show, I thought, mmmm, I should remix/co-opt this for my teaching!
A few people have asked me for examples — here are a few quick ones:

“Living Words”  
(Individual Quickfire)  
(goal: think beyond the tool)  
In 30 minutes

You will be given a word – use FONTS ONLY to create an image conveys the idea of that word (use any image editor you are comfortable using.)

Post to our Flickr group

—

“you light up my life”  
(Group Quickfire)  
(goal: understanding lighting & your video camera)  
In 1 1/2 hours:

Using your video/flip camera artistically shoot an object in:
fluorescent light
window light
low light
sunlight/cloud
shade
experimental light
—

I’m always looking for new ideas for the Quickfires — before heading off to teach this summer, I was inspired by the “Jing Speed Series.” I thought — we can do this! Wouldn’t it be great to use a new technology (jing) and practice a skill (screencasting) in the Quickfire format? The result exceeded my expectations…we were featured on the JingProject and TechSmith Education blogs. (Click through to see their work!) My students saw the potential of their work extending way beyond the classroom…it was extremely exciting for me as this embodied many of the social and collaborative ideas we were exploring.

—

Haiku Stop Motion

Students were given a haiku and asked to interpret the haiku through a 30 second stop motion video. They had 2 hours (plus a little time at lunch) to produce the video. Here is one example:
I am very touched that one of our recent graduates liked the Quickfire idea so much, that he created the MAET Challenge Ning to allow anyone to participate in a challenge – – What a great opportunity to join a PLN (Personal Learning Network.)
As I have improved the Quickfire challenges (with the assistance of my teaching partners and the students) it has become a great tool for introducing intimidating topics, reducing inhibition and inspiring creativity. This has inspired me to do more (pedagogical) thinking around the Quickfire Challenges — stay tuned for more!

With this teaser…do you think you could use Quickfires in your teaching? Give me some examples!

p.s. The picture at the top of the page was our last Quickfire Challenge of the summer inspired by the Instax Windows Pool on Flickr — Check out some of our #maet examples here.

22 Responses to Quickfires Explained

1. More edtech questions answered – Elementary Tech Scope and Sequence and Middle School Careers Class « Leigh Graves Wolf says:
   September 1, 2010 at 8:24 pm  (Edit)
   
   […] will need to prepare for jobs in fields that don't exist yet. I think the kids would love the "Quickfire challenge" idea. Take a look at the existing state benchmarks, keep the ISTE/21c skills in mind and let […]
2. *Leigh Graves Wolf* says:  
*November 11, 2010 at 11:21 am*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] also create a playful environment to facilitate technology PD (or any type of PD for that matter!) To learn more about Quickfire challenges, check out this post (and yes, it was inspired by Top […]

3. *Unclass & the MAET program in Rouen* says:  
*April 10, 2011 at 2:01 pm*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] students come to our program is to school them out of asking “What do you want?” (Our Quickfire challenges were also created to target this same problem.) We’re fighting against decades of schooling […]

4. *Quickfire: MAET (pre) #appjam* says:  
*July 11, 2011 at 3:20 pm*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] When we poll students on technologies they would like to learn in the MAET program, iPod/Pad app development is high on the list. If you’ve ever ventured into the world of app development you know that you need some pretty serious coding skills to get started. I didn’t want this to thwart the students from getting excited about the potential for app development – so I created the following quickfire! […]

5. *CEP810: Cooking with TPACK / EduTech* says:  
*June 22, 2014 at 8:05 pm*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] week in CEP810 I was assigned to complete a TPACK quickfire activity. For this assignment, I was to ask a friend to choose a plate, bowl, and utensil of their choice. I […]

6. *Running an Edcamp Style PD! / Candace Marcotte* says:  
*November 1, 2014 at 11:35 am*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] are a concept which can be attributed to Dr. Leigh Graves Wolf of Michigan State University (see her post here about them). Having been a student in the Master of Arts in Educational Technology program at MSU, I have […]

7. *#IPDX15 Interactive Closing Experience Reflection & How-To* says:  
*February 27, 2015 at 6:39 pm*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] so of thinking culminated in a fun activity that took place this afternoon. I have been running Quickfire Challenges for a while now, but, I’ve never done anything to this scale. At the core of a Quickfire […]

8. *CEP 810 Week 6 TPACK Quickfire Video and Blog / Scooter's CEP 810 & 811 Blog* says:  
*June 27, 2015 at 1:45 pm*  
(Disclaimer)

[…] CEP 810 Week 6 we videotaped a Quickfire activity. The idea was to use what was on hand to solve a problem. In my case, my wife selected a […]

9. *Cooking with TPACK – Repurposing Tools & Technology / crcavalieri* says:
October 11, 2015 at 7:26 pm  (Edit)

[…] “explore, create, and share” assignment this week was a fun TPACK quickfire challenge activity. Basically, I was challenged to recruit a helper and then prepare some kind of […]

10. Katleya Healy’s ImagineIT Project Zooms in on Global Issues – MSU Urban STEM says:
    May 10, 2016 at 6:12 am  (Edit)

[…] in a fun, authentic way. Students will participate in open discussions, project-based learning, Quick Fires, surveys and many other performances of […]

11. Quickfires! #MAETY1 – Deedee Stasiak says:
    July 2, 2016 at 11:37 am  (Edit)

[…] you will find my “Quickfires” from my first year of my Masters Courses. […]

12. And That’s A Wrap! Summer Meetings End, New Wonder Begins! – MSU Urban STEM says:
    July 29, 2016 at 12:16 am  (Edit)

[…] Quickfires are a staple in almost any #MSUrbanSTEM showdown. This was a new experience for most of our cohort. A few members shared that the quickfires were very intense and a bit stressful at times, but overall—one of the most powerful learning opportunities experienced. […]

13. Quickfire Challenge: TPACK – divisiblebytech says:
    August 10, 2016 at 12:07 pm  (Edit)

[…] of re-purposing technology to meet the new demands of learning. In a similar way, this TPACK quickfire challenge pushed me to identify and explicitly state the ways in which my improper instrument could […]

14. Cooking with Teaching | bravo2learning says:
    August 11, 2016 at 6:42 pm  (Edit)

[…] week, my CEP 810 class had me complete a quickfire challenge. The purpose of this was to get a better understanding of TPACK and how it works in our […]

15. Eight Lessons (we learned yesterday) for Running a Design Thinking Workshop says:
    August 18, 2016 at 9:42 am  (Edit)

[…] I’m no stranger to workshop facilitation, and, do my best to make workshops interactive (see QuickFire challenges). Entrenching myself in design thinking frameworks has given me a new perspective and tool to […]

16. Eight Lessons (we learned yesterday) for Running a Design Thinking Workshop – MSU Learning HUB says:
    August 25, 2016 at 11:37 am  (Edit)

[…] I’m no stranger to workshop facilitation, and, do my best to make workshops interactive (see QuickFire challenges). Entrenching myself in design thinking frameworks has given me a new
perspective and tool for […]

17. **We’re Lighting up the New School Year with Some Quickfire Challenges – MSU Urban STEM** says:
   September 23, 2016 at 11:58 am  (Edit)

    […] at any #MSUrbanSTEM gathering. As the school year begins, our fellows are lighting up some Quickfire Challenges of their own. In classrooms across Chicago, students are participating in various activities such […]

18. **Quickfire Bins Created to Spark Creativity in Math! – MSU Urban STEM** says:
   October 11, 2016 at 10:09 am  (Edit)

    […] in Math class? Sure! James Edstrom is on a mission to spread his love of Quickfire Challenges throughout his building! Edstrom began Quickfires in his own math class during the 2015/2016 […]

19. **Cohort Two is Still Lighting Up the Quickfires – MSU Urban STEM** says:
   February 13, 2017 at 4:11 pm  (Edit)

    […] Center in Chicago. Although he is not a current #MSUrbanSTEM fellow, he is still lighting up quickfires! Students used Play-Doh and graph paper to create parabolas. What a fun, hands-on way to […]

20. **Are You Down with TPACK? | Bob's Blog** says:
   February 20, 2017 at 11:24 am  (Edit)

    […] having us do a “quickfire” activity. This is best explained on Leigh Graves Wolf’s website (Click here to view). The basic idea was to repurpose a tool to perform a task that it is not necessarily made for. We […]

21. **Lessons Learned from the #MSUrbanSTEM Build-a-Boat Quickfire** says:
   March 11, 2017 at 6:44 pm  (Edit)

    […] was fortunate to have the opportunity to facilitate a QuickFire challenge with the MSUrbanSTEM fellows last weekend. It has been a quite a while since I’ve […]

22. **Caution! Quickfires are Spreading! – MSU Urban STEM** says:
   May 12, 2017 at 7:27 am  (Edit)

    […] a new #MSUrbanSTEM adventure. They were soon introduced to a fun and energized activity called a Quickfire Challenge. These challenges were usually led by instructor Candace Marcotte, who always brings a ton of […]

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MarginalSyllabus continues to be a powerful medium for engaging critical analysis & practicing digital literacies. Honored to be part of the March 2018 conversation w/fellow scholars @aprilbakerbell @Nicole_Mirra @RavenForevamore @SakeenaEverett #CLinTE #connectedlearning

Connect with #MAET at #MACUL18 next week! We're hosting a 'Recharging Station' in Booth 327. Stop by to say hello, learn about our #mastersdegree and certificate programs in #edtech, and to recharge!

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