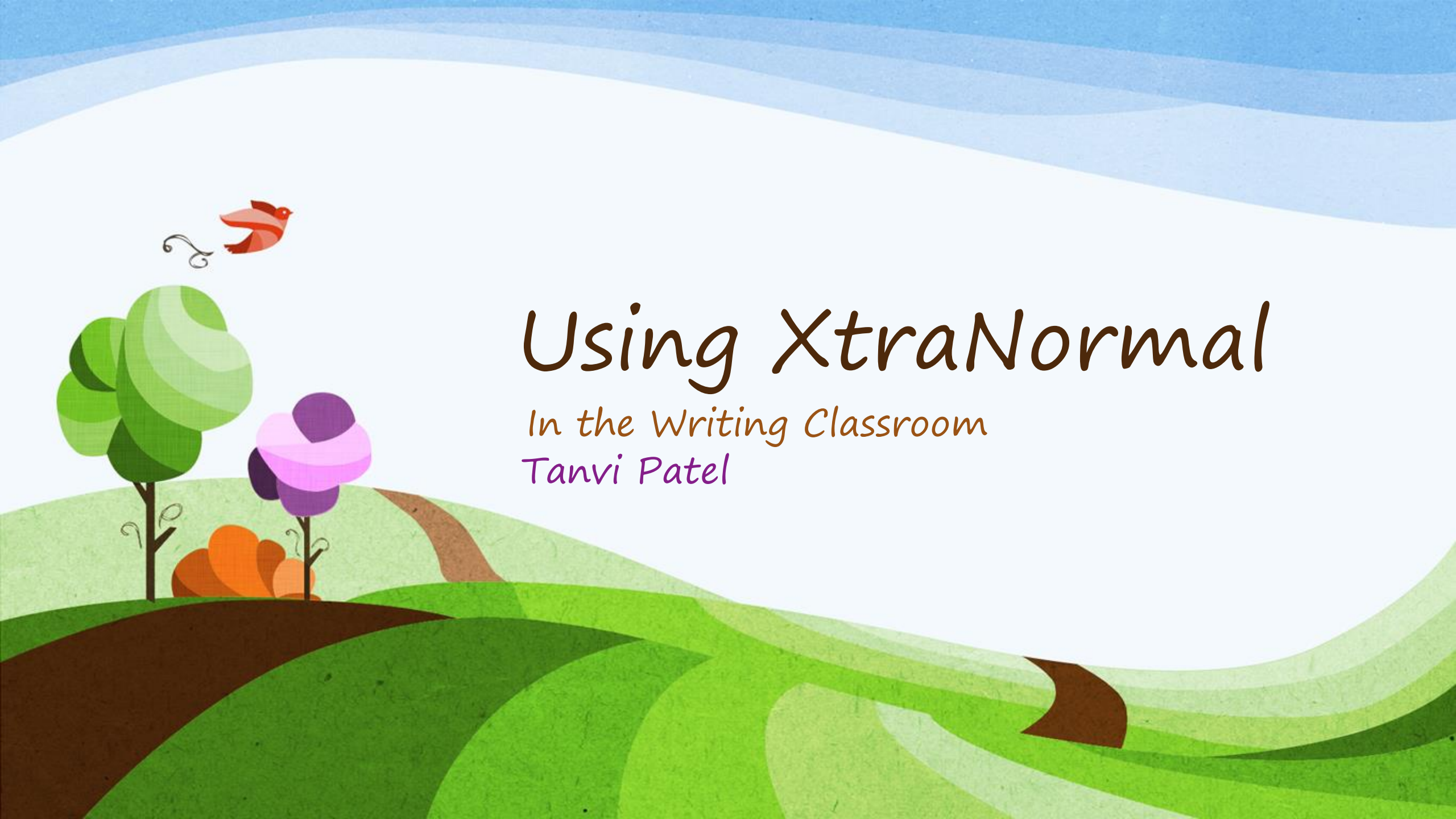




Using XtraNormal

In the Writing Classroom
Tanvi Patel

Presentation Outcomes

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1. Explain how to use the XtraNormal new media tool for the writing-related classroom

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4. Display (through examples) XtraNormal assignments and student work
5. Provide information on Assessing XtraNormal films as alternative assignments

1. What is XtraNormal?

- XtraNormal.com is a free (for limited use) website that enables the creation of animated movies
- Turn your written or oral words into a 3D animated film!
- Customize films with backgrounds, camera angles, sounds, voices, and characters.
- Generate visual learning through storytelling, creativity and optimal student engagement.



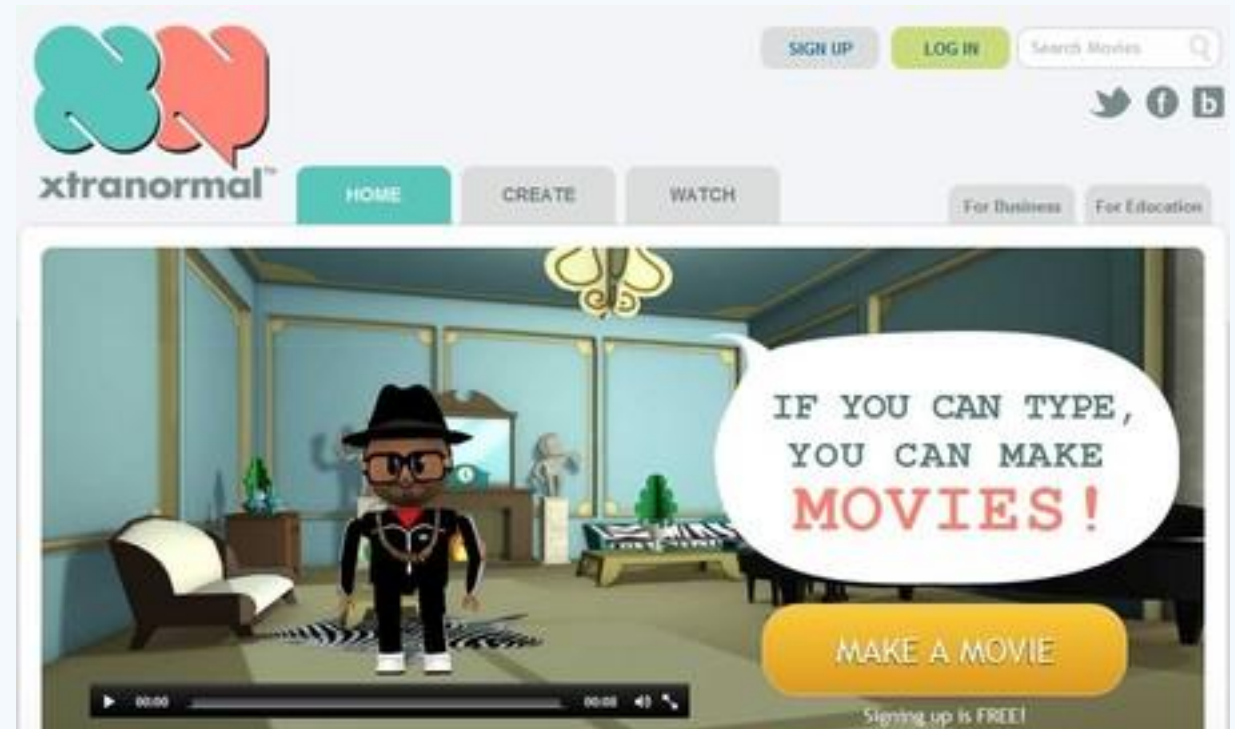
How do I use XtraNormal?

- Although the website is quite user-friendly, I've included a few links here to get you started.

First, you'll need to go to <http://www.xtranormal.com/> and create an account using your email address and a password.

Then, click on the "How To" tab and click on the "Movie Maker Basics" option.

<http://www.xtranormal.com/how-to/>



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 - First, you'll need to go to <http://www.xtranormal.com/> and create an account using your email address and a password.
 - Then, click on the "How To" tab and click on the "Movie Maker Basics" option. <http://www.xtranormal.com/how-to/>
 - Once on this screen – A caricature of Gandhi will assist you in clicking through a general introduction to the site.
 - After the introduction, your first step in movie making is to click on the "Create" tab and choose one of the "Collections" of sets XtraNormal has to offer.

XtraNormal Collections!

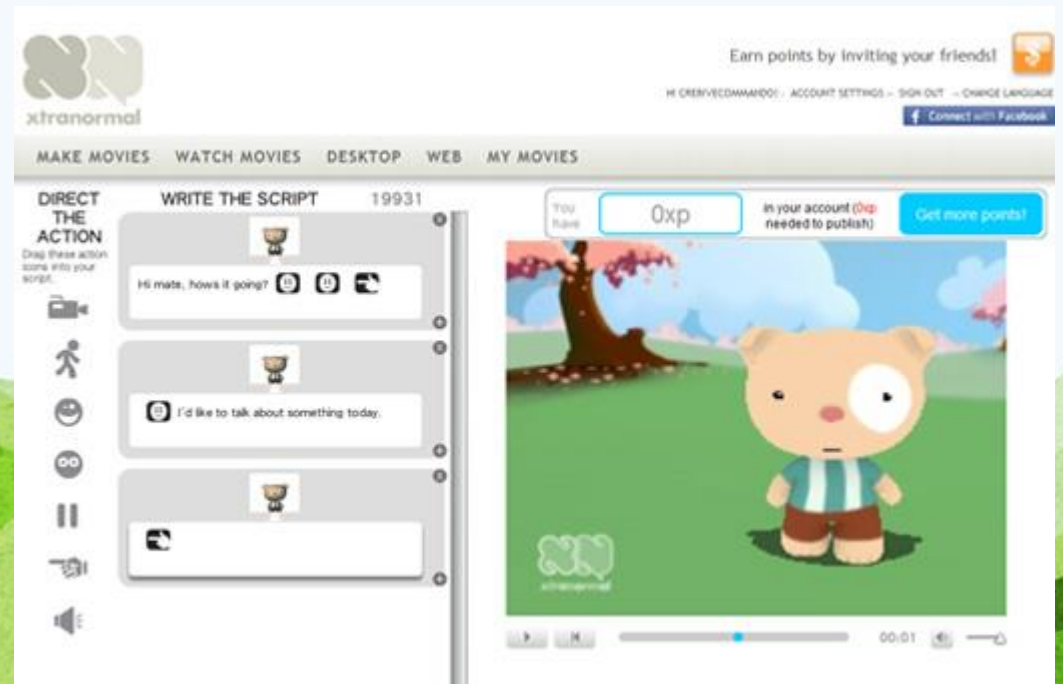


This is a small sample of the collections offered by XtraNormal

How-To Continued...

Once you've chosen a collection, you're ready to make more selections like sets, actors, sounds and stories.

Then, start writing the script!



2. Why should I use XtraNormal in the classroom?

Writing-related Outcomes:

- New Media Integration in the classroom
- Higher rates of student participation

Watch the video to find out more!

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/14369599/xtranormal-benefits>

3. How Can I use XtraNormal instead of Traditional Writing Assignments?

- XtraNormal is **versatile!** Use it as part of any humanities, arts or social science curriculum.
- **MWP courses** can use XtraNormal: WRI 1, WRI 10, Core 1, WRI 100, among others.
- Types of Assignments? Here's a list of options:

Peer Review

In-class
Debates

Presentations

Response
Papers

Inter-
textuality

Grammar
Lessons

Presentations



XtraNormal can:

- ❖ Be an alternative to Powerpoint or Prezi
- ❖ Showcase research findings
- ❖ Expand student collaboration
- ❖ Help generate visual arguments
- ❖ Be Entertaining!

Sample Assignments:

- ~ Research Project
- ~ How-to Demonstrations
- ~ Author Bios
- ~ And many more!

Assignment Focus:

Response Papers



Response Papers

One of the easiest ways to use XtraNormal is for low-stakes response assignments.

Tell students to generate a 30 second response before class discussion!

Sample Assignments

- In-class Freewrites
- Lecture Summaries
- Paper Reflections
- Reading Responses
- Core Friday Responses



4. Example: Core Friday

Click below to see a sample assignment for Core Friday responses.

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/14369665/core-friday-assignment>

In Core 1, students are required to attend Core Friday events and write a 1 page response.

Instead of the traditional written response, students can create XtraNormal videos!

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/14196334/core-friday-4>

Sample Student Core
Friday Response 1

(click on the link above)

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/14228114/what-is-life-and-where-is-it>

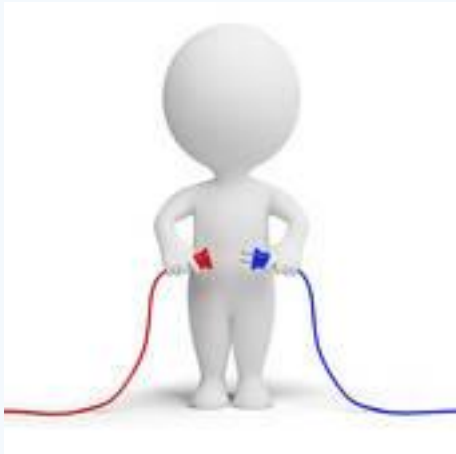
Sample Student Core
Friday Response 2

(click on the link above)

Inter-textuality and Debates

Inter-textuality

Ask students to put two authors in conversation with each other regarding a theme, artifact or issue.



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Debate Activities

Students can create videos that illustrate two sides of controversial debate



Assignment Focus:

Peer Review



Before Peer Review – Writer's Memo

Writer's Memo

-Writer's memos are letters to peer reviewers indicating the author's major writing concerns.



Before Peer Review – Writer's Memo



Writer's Memo

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- Authors can create short XtraNormal videos for their reviewers to engage creativity and student collaboration.

Sample Writer's Memo

Writer's Memo

-Writer's memos are letters to peer reviewers indicating the author's major writing concerns.

- Authors can create short XtraNormal videos for their reviewers to engage creativity and interactive collaboration.

Watch the video for a sample!

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/14398582/pawz-movie>

After Peer Review: Film Feedback

XtraNormal allows for:

- Creation of personalized videos for each peer reviewed paper
- Thorough explanation of comments
- The ability to replay comments during the revision process
- Students to become knowledge makers.



Grammar Lessons

~ How-To Lessons ~

Ask students to create instructional videos and let them become the teacher!



Ex. How-to: use pronouns, incorporate quotes, cite sources or explain that pesky semi-colon!

5. Assessing XtraNormal

How do I grade this?



Low-Stakes Assignments

- ☐ Focus on Creativity
- ☐ Collaboration
- ☐ Visual Effects
- ☐ Meeting the requirements
- ☐ Voice

Assessment Rubric Categories

High-Stakes Assignments

- ❑ Focus on content
- ❑ Critique argumentative logic, organization of ideas, and inclusion of texts from class
- ❑ Consider persuasive tone
- ❑ Possible rubric categories include:

Process

Craft

Analysis

Rhetoric

Argument

Ethics

The End! *or just the beginning...*

You're Ready to Start!

*Implement these simple alternative
lessons plans in your next class
and let the good times roll!*



Thanks for your attention!

XtraNormal Tip-Sheet



1. XtraNormal allows for teachers to easily incorporate new media into the classroom by replacing traditional assignments
2. XtraNormal is a free (limited) website that is user-friendly. It has a range of backgrounds, voices, sounds, characters, and styles.
3. Instructors can use XtraNormal for presentations, inter-textuality, debates, responses, grammar activities, and peer review.
4. Assessing XtraNormal films is very similar to traditional paper assessment. Rubric categories include: Analysis, rhetoric, organization, creativity, craft and collaboration.