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Videostories: Using technology to give voice to adolescents with disabilities: Mid-Project Status Report

Leslie Soodak, Ph.D.
Pace University

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Thinkfinity Initiative Mid-Project Status Report:

Videostories: *Using technology to give voice to adolescents with disabilities*

A. Goals and Objectives of the Project

1. To demonstrate the benefits of *Videostories* to students and their families
 - a. To secure equipment for producing high-quality videotapes of students with disabilities.
 - b. To identify training needs and provide staff development.
 - c. To create *Videostories* for individual students to view, edit, and possibly archive.
 - d. To obtain baseline data on students' self esteem and advocacy (i.e., self determination).
 - e. To conduct interviews with students to explore expectations and outcomes associated with video stories.

2. To demonstrate the efficacy of the narrative format in the preparation of current and future educators.
 - a. To conduct a study to determine if teachers' expectations of students differ when video stories or written case studies are used to provide information about a student.

3. To disseminate findings regarding the use of oral histories to benefit individuals with disabilities and in the preparation of professional educators.

B. Progress made towards original goals of the project to date

Goal/objective	Projected Timeline	Status
<i>To demonstrate the benefits of Videostories to students and their families</i>		
To secure equipment for producing high-quality videotapes of students with disabilities	January-February 2009	completed
To identify training needs and provide staff development.	March – October 2009	<i>Videostories</i> learning community established at Blythedale. 4 meetings held since February 2009
To create video stories for individual students for their	March – October 2009	Several student audiotapes were

viewing, editing, and possible archiving		created during the spring; students were given practice in interviewing. Student videotapes will begin being made during summer school
To obtain baseline data on students' self esteem and advocacy	January – February 2009	Pre and post interviews will be conducted with each student participating in summer school video project.
To conduct interviews with selected students and families	March –October 2009	One parent audiotape was made and edited. This audiotape will used to encourage others parents to participate in the fall.
<i>To demonstrate the efficacy of the narrative format in the preparation of current and future educators</i>		
To conduct a study of teachers' expectations using video stories	October –December 2009	Materials for study are being developed this summer

C. Next steps

1. July – August Summer 2009
 - a. Pre/Post student interviews
 - b. Provide opportunity for students to make and edit videotape projects
 - c. Development of *videostory* and case study for teacher expectation research
 - d. Piloting of teacher research materials

2. Sept- December 2009
 - a. Tape and edit student *videostories*
 - b. Conduct teacher research
 - c. Create parent *videostories*