Memo

**TO:** Joe Griffin

**FROM:** Dwide Schrude

**DATE:** March 17, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Research Proposal

**TITLE:** “Digital Media Within The Classroom”

**PURPOSE**

People have always considered democracy to be the best form of government because of its ability to give the people the power to vote their leaders in office. Buy history tells us that many leaders prefer to use dictatorship rule to be more successful. We believe that taking something is better than asking from people and this has led to the rise of so many dictators. Africa has had a taste in such a government where people are oppressed, slaughtered and killed. A lot of African countries have risen up against such leaders and given rise to democracy. The first revolts started in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, and Libya. A large number of protestors gathered in the cities with notices, demanding change. So, what might be the reasons for people to revolt? People revolt because dictatorship is not the right form of government. The rise and fall of dictators in Africa are indeed a topic worth discussing about. I’m specifically interest in answering the questions:

* Why is dictatorship government preferred to Democracy?
* What are the consequences of such form of rule?
* What measures are being taken to stop such form of government.?

**BACKGROUND**

The tales of World War I and World War II are stories to which we all are familiar with. It talks about how the people of the world were saved from being oppressed. Africa indeed is not alone when it comes to the fight for freedom. There is a saying “Power corrupts even the most humblest soul” Most of the African dictators who rose to power usually orchestrated a governemt overthrow, whereby putting themselves in charge. This usually leads the country into a civil war whereby millions of lives are lost all in the name of power. This often gives rise to another so called liberator who ends up doing the same thing and the circle continues. Recently, in the past decade most of the African dictators have either faced pressure from other nations or were assassinated in office to make way for the new era of democracy. Several leaders such as Muhammar Ghaddafi of Libya, Idi Amin of Uganda, and Sani Abacha of Nigeria rose and fell from power due to their cruelty and ambition for power.

Children across the country are born with or develop learning disorders that make operating in a traditional classroom nearly impossible. These kids do not deserve to be left behind, and there are resources to help them keep on par with their classmates. One useful teaching tool is to incorporate digital media, which can help them, into the classroom (Grant; Grimshaw; Larson).

**SIGNIFICANCE**

I feel this topic is important in education for two reasons. First, it teaches students about the history of democracy and why the world prefers that form of government. The lust or power has led great men to be considered as villains. They impose their own will power against people leaving people with no choice than to obey or get executed. This dictators not only oppress people but they are responsible for the loss of so many lives. Another thing they do is they embezzle the countries funds and send it to other countries like Switzerland, United States, and many more. This form of government is known as dictatorship. Secondly, In this article dedicated from Encyclopedia Britannica is stated that “The term dictatorship comes from the Latin word “dictator”, which in the Roman Republic designated a temporary magistrate who was granted all the powers and authority of the state” (Dictatorship). These people often resort to force or deceit to gain power in which they maintain through the spread of terror. This form of government has continued to scatter from one continent to the other. Some of the most famous dictators of the 1900’s were Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, and Adolf Hitler. These dictators were famous with the act of using force and deceit and would crush anyone who opposes their rule. They indeed left their mark in history for being responsible for the loss of millions of lives. This can easily be assumed that dictatorship gives rise to cruelty and savagery among such men.

**METHODOLOGY**

I will consult both primary and secondary source for this paper. I will mostly focus on the primary sources I have to write my paper because most of them carry reports and statistics carried and plus they are from a reliable source. I will also rely on secondary sources also. I am primarily using Encyclopedia Britannica as my research tool. It is a reliable and accurate source. I will also have a look at several websites as I try to summarize the rise and fall of some African dictators and what led to their sad end.

**PROBLEMS AND COUNTERARGUMENTS**

The main problem that I anticipate will be finding useful sources without spending too much time reading through less-helpful sources. There is a wealth of information on this topic, and now shortage of potential articles to read. I anticipate reading selectively, especially skimming chapter headings and abstracts, to find the most helpful materials. As for objections, one prevalent counterargument I have encountered is that digital learning interventions, even when focused on positive, teaching-specific content, still serve as distractions. I intend to show how this perspective, while valid in certain contexts, is ultimately limited because the potential gains from digital learning outweigh any potential liabilities. I have also encountered the objection that many of these digital learning affordances are expensive, and thus will be inaccessible to many schools and districts in the region. While some methods of digital teaching are more cost-intensive, there are simple, affordable ways to introduce digital media into classes with a lasting impact. I’ll also highlight some federal grants that are set up to address this very issue.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Braman, John, and Judy Goldberg. "Traditional And Youth Media Education: Collaborating And Capitalizing On Digital Storytelling." *Youth Media Reporter* 3(2009): 162-65. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *Describes a program designed to help youth express themselves through various forms of media. I plan to use this in the main body of my paper to defend my position.*

Bolmeier, Bethann. “Some Quick Questions.” Message to Erin Awtrey. 12 January 2015. E-mail. *An e-mail to a former teacher asking some questions about her career. This will be especially helpful in my introduction section, to set the stage.*

Chadband, Emma. “More Young Americans are Reading, New Study Finds.” *NEAToday.org.* National Education Association. 16 Nov. 2012. Web. 26 Jan. 2015. *Article on the amount and type of reading being done by American youth. This contains a key piece of evidence to support my main argument.*

Grant, Jamillah M.A. "Are Electronic Books Effective In Teaching Young Children Reading And Comprehension?" *International Journal Of Instructional Media* 31.3 (2004): 303-08. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *Study showing that e-books can increase literacy and reading comprehension. The highlights of this study are central to my line of thinking, and I will summarize the findings in my essay.*

Grimshaw, Shirley, Naomi Dungworth, Cliff McKnight, and Anne Morris. “Electronic Books: Children’s Reading and Comprehension.” *British Journal of Educational Technology* 38 (2006): 583-99. *Academic Search Premier.* Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *Study comparing traditional reading with e-reading in comprehension and story enjoyment. To be used to help bring the reader up to speed.*

Hobbs, Renee. "Empowering Learners With Digital And Media Literacy." *Knowledge Quest* 39.5 (2011): 12-17. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *Discusses the importance of digital literacy in teachers. I plan to use this in my conclusion, to drive home the point that it begins with teachers and their preparation.*

Kirsch, Jesse. “As Schools Jump to Tablets, Questions Linger Over Impact on Writing and Reading Skills.” *NEAToday.org.* National Education Association. 27 Jan. 2014. Web. 26 Jan. 2015. *Article discussing some of the personal views of students and teachers on iPads in the classroom. There are actually some good counterarguments in here that I want to address in the body of my paper.*

Larson, Lotta C. "Digital Readers: The Next Chapter In E-Book Reading And Response." *Reading Teacher* 64.1 (2010): 15-22. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *An experiment exploring the benefits of e-books in a second grade classroom. This source also will help me address certain objections and counterarguments in my final paper while also highlighting some important points that support my thesis.*

Varley, Pamela. "As Good As Reading? Kids And The Audiobook Revolution." *Horn Book Magazine* 78.3 (2002): 251-262. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 29 Jan. 2015. *Article discussing the new popularity and pros and cons of audiobooks. This is more anecdotal, with an emotional example, and it might be helpful to include in either the intro or conclusion to my essay*

Williams, Roger M. “Spotlight: Books in Boxes.” *NEA.org.* National Education Association. 5 Jan. 2010. Web. 26 Jan. 2015. *Pros and cons of e-books for traditional readers. Again, helpful information for my counterargument section.*

Yueh-Min, Huang, Liang Tsung-Ho, and Chiu Chiung-Hui. "Gender Differences In The Reading Of E-Books: Investigating Children's Attitudes, Reading Behaviors And Outcomes." *Journal Of Educational Technology & Society* 16.4 (2013): 97-110. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 25 Jan. 2015. *A study on the different attitudes and results of e-book reading based on gender. While ultimately limited in what I can use from this (due to its close focus on gender), there are some reliable data concerning retention.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL**

I want to complete this research project as a way to prepare to have my own classroom. I want to understand how technology can help my students. It is not enough just to have the electronic tools we need, we also need to fully understand their potential and how to use them effectively (Hobbs). I respectfully request approval of my research proposal.

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