

Creating Comics with Pixton

Combining words & images to teach & learn.



Critical inquiry often benefits from the inclusion of visual elements, like comics, to complicate and challenge the idea of how we interact with text. Pixton is one of the most flexible and useful online comics-generating tools.

CREATE ASSIGNMENTS

Pixton offers free and paid options for use in education, business, and for fun. Instructors can create a course-specific account and populate it with students. The instructor can set assignments within the account, which the students may then use to create their comics to fulfill the assignment.

NEW ASSIGNMENT



FLEXIBILITY

When creating comics in Pixton, users have an immense array of preset options from which to choose, including characters with manipulable facial expressions and body positions, backgrounds, props, and text options.

Choose from preset layouts and characters:



Users can manipulate the preset options, changing the colors, sizes, positions, and clothing of the preset characters. The interface is fairly intuitive, and once users become familiar with the tool, they can upload and manipulate their own backgrounds and props, and they can also create almost any kind of panel layout they want.

Completed comics can range from a one-panel cartoon to a multiple page comic book, and all finished comics can be saved as a PDF, embedded in another site, or saved in Pixton and shared as a URL.

Pixton also allows for comics creation in over 45 different languages, making it a particularly useful tool in developing foreign language skills.

WHY COMICS?

- While more attention is being paid to visual literacy in the K-12 experience, higher ed students are still trained to conform to the supremacy of the text-only essay. Complicate that training, and challenge students to a new mode of thinking, by introducing visual elements to their course work.
- For students who may balk at the idea of comics-creation because they feel like they “can’t draw,” Pixton offers a way for them to engage with images that requires only attention to composition and juxtaposition with text, and not representational artistic skill.
- Comics aren’t a “simpler” means of approaching material; rather, they are *different*, and thus necessitate a different, and often generative, attention to the material.

LEARN MORE

<http://pixton.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/PixtonComics>