**Uses of Instructional Technology**

Unit: American Romanticism

1. **Students interact with SmartBoard in Multimedia Lesson –Students interaction with Technology**

The SmartBoard brings interactive learning into the classroom by allowing students the opportunity to get out of their seats and interact with the activities throughout the lesson on Symbolism in Edgar Allen Poe’s work by incorporating slides with games and matching that are based around the meaning of symbolism and that incorporate specific examples of symbolism from the text. During the SmartBoard based lesson, students are able to put a visual to the descriptive language Poe uses in The Raven as they see various images throughout the presentation and are asked to describe how Poe creates those images through his language. The SmartBoard presentation is a great way to keep students from losing interest and pull them into complex or difficult topics in an interactive way.

1. **Prezi Presentation on “Self Reliance” –Teacher’s use of Technology**

The Prezi Presentation on Thoreau’s essay “Self Reliance” allows more ways to grab students’ attention than a basic power point presentation simply in the way the presentation is structured. Students are able to get an idea of what it means to be “self reliant” as well as the ideas and beliefs that motivated Thoreau’s writing in a more attractive way than bullet points on a power point slide. During the presentation I have incorporated various quotes from his essay and connected them with his ideas and beliefs, a video from the mid 1900’s on the meaning of “self reliance”, and connections with historical events—all of which are brought together in a more animated presentation than a basic power point presentation.

<http://prezi.com/v8hmi_l2fxqm/self-reliance-and-nature/?auth_key=1205d0db655f1cea7497b3b5278003a56f2f152a>

1. **“Ask Jimmy” Student Questions- Technological Resource, Students exploring the educational use of blogging**

While the “Ask Jimmy” site is not as interactive as the Prezi and the SmartBoard, the website does allow students to connect with other students simply by showing them that they aren’t the only ones who question the meaning behind works of literature. The ideas and topics covered in literature from the Romantic Era are very complex and require one to think extremely far out of the box. So, by showing students that there are other students just like them with the same type of questions and providing them with the opportunity to answer those questions, it gives them something to relate to while also showing them that they can find the answers to the same types of questions that they have trouble with. This website acts as major technological resource simply by giving students something to relate to and learn from at the same time.