

# VAST Stories in WordPress

**By:** Erin McCloskey & Mallory Easton  
**Course(s):** EDUC 373: Adolescent Literacy  
**Semesters:** Spring 2011

## GOALS:

This site is being used to document the work the Vassar students enrolled in Adolescent Literacy EDUC-373 in the Spring of 2011. This semester, as part of their class work, the EDUC 373 students will be tutoring Vassar After School Tutoring Scholars (VAST). The VAST scholars are all students from the Poughkeepsie Middle School (PMS). This approach combines research, theory and practice in the context of an urban middle school. The students have been defining literacy and looking at how school literacy compares and contrasts to the literacies valued and in use in contexts outside of school. We seek to explore how literacy learning is constructed through methods and curriculum with a special emphasis on the diversities at play in middle and high school classrooms.

## DESCRIPTION:

Our purposes in using WordPress for this course are multi-tiered. On one level, we wanted a way to quickly and easily share the work of the PMS students with friends and family. We also thought publishing to the “blogosphere” good preparation for the Vassar students in that it prepares them to write for a broader audience, an important component of their liberal arts education.



## Results and Conclusions:

As the course is ongoing, any final conclusions would be a bit premature, but a number of things have become clear:

1. WordPress has been a fantastic tool for collaborating, drafting and instantly publishing our group’s material to the web.
2. The Vassar students and the PMS students have all enjoyed leveraging the multi modal digital storytelling options as they get to know each other.
3. WordPress has been a great asset in documenting the process of learning together, as every post has as timestamp and an author stamp.