

## **OTEN Grant Application**

### **Instructional Design**

Each group of students will select an ocean animal they want to know more about. A series of questions for further study will be generated. As a class, we will explore sources of information such as books, magazines, encyclopedias and online resources. With assistance, students will research their animals, using the resources discussed in class, to discover the answers to their questions. They will write and illustrate a nonfiction piece about their animal.

They will practice reading their piece and then go the “Author’s Chair” where a digital video camera will be used to film students introducing their work and then reading the text. The clips will be imported into an iMovie project where titles and other elements can be added if necessary. The movie will then be exported as a QuickTime file and saved in a place where students can access it to watch. Students can also listen to other “Author’s Chair” narrations written and read by their classmates.

A video reflection of each student’s perception on the researching, writing and reading process will be filmed immediately after the student finishes reading his/her nonfiction piece. This reflection will include questions such as “What was hard about doing the research, How did you prepare for the Author’s Chair, and Why do you like this animal?”

### **Learning Goals**

This project would encourage students to become engaged as researchers and writers and see themselves as “real” authors. The movie would provide an alternative mode of the “Author’s Chair” by allowing students to revisit their learning experiences. It would also provide an opportunity for students to respond to higher-level thinking questions about the researching,

writing and reading process in an authentic and age appropriate manner. Specific Oregon

Benchmarks include:

- ✧ *Speaking*
  - Verbally reproduce a written story
- ✧ *Listening to and Reading Informational Text*
  - Describe new information gained from text in own words
  - Make connections and discuss prior knowledge of topics in informational texts
- ✧ *Writing:*
  - With assistance, write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person
  - With guidance, gather information about a topic and sort it into major categories
- ✧ *Science:*
  - Identify how some animals gather and store food, defend themselves and find shelter.

### **Need for Technology**

I believe students will be excited to read their pieces and watch themselves on the computer as they narrate their own nonfiction piece in the Author’s Chair. Students will also be able to revisit their learning experiences by watching their own narration, and their friends’ narrations, which will result in a deeper level of learning.

### **Assessment and Evaluation**

I would assess the story, the reading in the Author’s Chair and the reflection. Before going to the “Author’s Chair” students will need to practice reading their book over and over and this will help develop fluency.