



# Create, Compose, Connect!: Reading, Writing, and Learning with Digital Tools

By Jeremy Hyler, Troy Hicks

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Find out how to incorporate digital tools into your English language arts class to improve students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Authors Jeremy Hyler and Troy Hicks show you that technology is not just about making a lesson engaging; it's about helping students become effective creators and consumers of information in today's fast-paced world. You'll learn how to use mobile technologies to teach narrative, informational, and argument writing as well as visual literacy and multimodal research. Each chapter is filled with exciting lesson plans and tech tool suggestions that you can take back to your own classroom immediately.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"What most impresses me about the work of Jeremy Hyler and Troy Hicks is how they leverage digital tools and platforms for higher purposes. They know how to help teachers to help students learn how to use the computer as a research resource and a construction kit--and that's exactly what is needed to leverage the power of technology to help us achieve deep understanding and strategic facility. I love this book for focusing on the prize of engaged and deep learning, and for achieving its goal so admirably."

--Jeffrey Wilhelm, Professor of English Education at Boise State University, well-known literacy expert, and bestselling author of numerous books on teaching literacy

"This is not just a book about teaching English with technology (though it does that very well). It is a book about teacher learning, rich pedagogy that leveres what matters in today's digital and social media landscape, and the authentic community and engagement that develops when teacher educators, teachers, and students learn out-loud and truly alongside one another."

--Sara Kajder, English Teacher, internationally-recognized speaker, and bestselling author of books on adolescent literacy and digital tools

"Jeremy Hyler and Troy Hicks have written an invaluable book for every educator. While the focus of the book is on 7th and 8th graders the stories, concepts, and examples extend down into elementary and up into high school. Whether you decide to read the book from cover to cover, or whether you decide to read one chapter to support your own journey toward technology integration, or whether you decide to take this book back to your school for next year's professional focus...this book has something for you."

--Kathy Highfield and Laura Pardo, Michigan Reading Journal

#### About the Author

Dr. Troy Hicks (@hickstro) is an associate professor of English at Central Michigan University and focuses his work on the teaching of writing, literacy and technology, and teacher education and professional development. A former middle school teacher, he collaborates with K - 12 colleagues and explores how they implement newer literacies in their classrooms. Hicks directs CMU's Chippewa River Writing Project, a site of the National Writing Project, and he frequently conducts professional development workshops related to writing and technology. Hicks is author of the Heinemann titles *Crafting Digital Writing* (2013) and *The Digital Writing Workshop* (2009), as well as a co-author of *Because Digital Writing Matters* (Jossey-Bass, 2010) and *Create, Compose, Connect!* (Routledge/Eye on Education, 2014). He blogs at *Digital Writing, Digital Teaching*. In March 2011, Hicks was honored with CMU's Provost's Award for junior faculty who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in research and creative activity. Most importantly, he is the father of six digital natives and is always learning something new about writing and technology from them. <http://hickstro.org/>

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