Setting boundaries, communicating, & reflecting:

3 PROJECTS USING COMICS AS A METHOD

Lydia Wysocki

Presentation at British Consortium on Comics Scholarship Symposium, University of Sussex, 4th June 2016.
1. Setting boundaries
SPARKS SCIENCE COLLIDER  August 2014

* Scientists/science data + creatives/makers
* Reverse engineering
  'Asteroid Belt: The Newcastle Science Comic'
  - factual content
  - presentation/story
  - style & drawing
* Storyboards as comics & communication
  - M. Scorsese
  - R. Scott
* Who does what?
- Provide the science
- Have some creative input

ART & WRITING
- Devise the story
- Put the story into words

SCIENCE
- Devise the images
- Put the images and words on the page
- Make it look good
2. Communicating
GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT

* Young people’s involvement in research (protocol document)

* Booklet design; words + pictures working together or pulling apart

* Design & editing; accessibility of text

* Final output wasn’t a comic; comics as 1 of many options for communication.
Research in Reality

The dangers of drugs & gangs in today's society.

Comic Sans.

Get your facts right!
Why we care

Research is about studying things we don’t yet know about or don’t fully understand. It can be carried out by observation or through qualitative and/or quantitative methods. We think research is important because it is good to find new information; it is a great way to find out new things; and you can learn from different opinions from people on the subject. We also believe that the only way for humans to excel is to attempt to advance and create new theories. Therefore, research is essential.

Before taking part in research, we think it is important to know what the research will be about and what is going to change as a result of it. Once research is finished, we think we should get feedback from the researchers telling us what they found and if the research was successful or not.

Students at Shawlands Academy

Cath Sinclair, Shawlands Academy

Peter Hopkins, Newcastle University

Research is important because …

It means that we are contributing and making a difference

It gives us a chance to talk about things we don’t normally discuss in class

It gives us a chance to have a say in different things to do with our lives

It can help us understand why we think the way we do and why we agree or not with our friends and with other people in our class

It helps researchers to understand things better

“I think it just makes you reflect back and you end up learning more about yourself as a person”

“It would change people’s views definitely, so that is one way of feedback even if it’s not positive or negative”
3. Reflecting FaSMEd lunchtime comics club 2015 - 2016

* European project on formative assessment in new-style science & math lessons

* Making comics as a way to think about lessons, & to organise that thinking
  - Venn comics
  - Charting for clarity of communication
  - Confidence in writing & drawing

* Comics as a prompt for student interviews/evaluation; also as student-led output.

Project team: Jill Clark, Ulrike Thomas, Lucy Tiplady, + FaSMEd team.

George Stephenson High School
Newcastle University
Research Centre for Learning and Teaching

FaSMEd
Comics by
Holly. Josh
Matthew
Charlie. Rosie
Alex. Steven. Owen
FaSMEd
‘It was practical, it wasn’t just writing down. We got to role play, not run around the classroom but a bit more freedom.’

‘We got to move around a lot, not like you normally do in maths like where you do multiplication and stuff like that. We actually got to take part properly.’

Shade in the percentage 20%
Positive overall response from participants & partners (Social Science; visual methods; student voice)

Portfolio of examples using comics as a method/process, in addition to other projects that prioritise comics as a research communication output (fuzzy boundary?) (is there a publication in this, or is this it?)

Evidence of process
   Print & digital
   Size of audience
NCL CFLAT
@cflat4change  FOLLOW YOU
Thinking Differently about Education.
Research Centre for Learning & Teaching.
Newcastle University, School of Education,
Communication & Language Sciences
🔗 ncl.ac.uk/cflat/

FaSMEd
@FaSMEdProject
FaSMEd is a Research Project led by Newcastle
Uni. We will look at how technology can be
used in formative assessment by teachers to
help raise achievement.
📍 Newcastle University, UK
🔗 research.ncl.ac.uk/fasmed/

Peter Hopkins
@hopkinspeter1  FOLLOW YOU
Social geographer at Newcastle University
📍 Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
🔗 ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/prof...

Sparks North East
@SparksNorthEast
Creative hack/mash/play event in Newcastle.
📍 Newcastle, North East England
🔗 eepurl.com/zIG11
Lydia.Wysocki@ncl.ac.uk
Lydia@AppliedComicsEtc.com
@lyd-W
@appliedcomics