



storiumedu

FAQ for Teachers and Administrators

storiumedu.com

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What is StoriumEdu?

StoriumEdu is a unique new online game that helps students build their writing skills, learn storytelling techniques, practice collaboration, and explore their creativity. It does this by transforming writing into an engaging group activity where students work together and lift each other up instead of struggling alone.

How does it work?

We use game concepts and mechanics inspired by popular tabletop, card, and video games — things that are familiar to most students of reading age and higher. These mechanics inspire and steer students' writing, help them overcome the dreaded “writer’s block,” build stories with clear structure and compelling characters, and have fun along the way.

What are its classroom uses?

StoriumEdu has many classroom applications, including:

- **English Language Arts:** students can explore the themes and characters of major works of literature by continuing or expanding the narrative.
- **Creative writing:** *StoriumEdu* provides a structured, collaborative environment for creative writing that encourages creativity, character development, plotting, and — crucially — story completion.
- **History:** students can demonstrate their comprehension of historical events and context by writing historical fiction.
- **Project-based Learning:** *StoriumEdu*'s asynchronous writing environment and support for collaboration make it a good fit for PBL classrooms.
- **English as a second language:** *StoriumEdu* provides a supportive environment for students to practice their English through immersive writing.

- **Learning other languages:** while the interface for *StoriumEdu* is currently only offered in English, writing in any language is supported.
- **Empathy building:** as a collaborative exercise that involves reading, writing, character development, and fictional decision making, *StoriumEdu* is a uniquely powerful way to put students in other people's shoes and help them consider other perspectives.

What ages are appropriate?

StoriumEdu is designed for students grades 3 and up, and those are the grades on which we're currently focusing our development and testing. (Depending on the students and context it may work for younger students, but we have not tested it in such a setting and it's not currently our focus.)

Is it available yet?

StoriumEdu has not yet been released publicly. As of Summer 2018 we are conducting beta testing on an invitation-only basis but expect to launch more broadly this Fall!

How do I know it *works*?

Storium (the game from which *StoriumEdu* was developed) has already been used by tens of thousands of people of all ages to collectively write over **125 million words** — the equivalent of more than **2,500 novels!**

Does it protect students' privacy?

Yes! *StoriumEdu* is designed for compliance with COPPA and FERPA. This means we **do not** connect personally identifying information from students (including email address or full name).

Is it safe for students to use?

Yes! *StoriumEdu* is secure and closed-off from the public Internet. Students can only interact with and view the writing of students who share the same virtual classroom. They cannot invite outsiders to write with them or read what they have written. And there is no integration with social media platforms like Facebook or Twitter.

What sort of control do teachers have?

Teachers always have full control. They can create and manage virtual classrooms and student accounts, add students to specific storytelling games, and oversee all student writing.

What are the software and hardware requirements?

There's nothing to install! All you need is a Web browser; the latest versions of either Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Edge, or Safari will do. Desktops, laptops, Chromebooks, and tablets are all supported.

What does it cost?

Participation in our beta trial is completely free. Once *StoriumEdu* launches publicly we anticipate a modest fee for usage.

Who created it?

StoriumEdu was created by Protagonist Labs, an independent startup company based in California and founded on belief in the power of games to unlock creativity and help students learn. Our team includes education and game-based learning experts from GlassLab, EA, Zynga, Stanford, and Carnegie Mellon.

How can I learn more or join the beta?

You can join the waiting list for our upcoming beta by visiting our homepage at <http://storiumedu.com> and entering your email address.

We have a [brochure](#) available which you are welcome to download and share.

You can also contact us via email at contact@storiumedu.com with any questions or feedback. Thank you for your interest!