

A CALL FOR DIGITAL YOUTH

The George Lucas Educational Foundation, publisher of *Edutopia* media, including *Edutopia* video, *Edutopia* magazine, and *Edutopia.org*, has received a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to produce ten multimedia portraits of youth ages 8–18 who are deeply immersed in digital media of all kinds: blogs, social networks, virtual environments, games, media making projects, and so on.

These portraits are intended to provide an in-depth look at how young people are using new media for learning, socializing, and entertainment, giving adults insight into the new generation's digital lives. The portraits will feature a range of media, produced by *Edutopia* staff as well as the youth themselves, including

- short (less than ten-minute) documentary segments that explore how young people are using new media in their homes, schools, out-of-school activities, and informal learning environments, and with their peers.
- interviews with youth to gain their reflections on these experiences.
- interviews with their parents, educators, and others.
- expert interviews commenting on and interpreting specific behaviors in the portraits.
- articles and text commentary placing the portraits in the larger context of digital-learning initiatives.
- examples of work these young people have produced, including photos, slide presentations, videos, podcasts, music, games, essays, blogs, media diaries, and Web sites.

The portraits will be published on *Edutopia.org*, and articles about them will appear in several issues of *Edutopia* magazine and on the Web site beginning in February 2009.

Edutopia seeks candidates for these profiles. We intend to illustrate a diversity of age, ethnicity, geography, personal passions, type of media used, and success in traditional academic settings. (For example, some individuals may struggle academically but excel in using digital technologies.) We would also like to identify teachers who are working with these students and have harnessed the power of new media in traditional learning environments.

We would like to receive nominations for profile subjects, including video submissions in the form of a one-minute first person reflection on how engagement with new media has changed the way the individual learns. The individual should also mention extracurricular activities and interests that do not necessarily involve digital media. We will use YouTube and TeacherTube to gather these submissions.

The 10 finalists chosen for full profiles produced by *Edutopia* will receive a Flip Video Camcorder for their participation.



THE GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Deadline for Submissions: October 31, 2008

Here's how to submit a video:

1. Create the video. The footage can consist of straightforward talking to the camera, or something more creative.
2. Students introduce themselves with their first name only.
3. Students obtain written parental consent for taping and posting on the Internet if they are younger than eighteen years old.
4. Post the video on YouTube or TeacherTube and tag it "**dyedutopia.**"

You'll need a (free) YouTube or TeacherTube account to do the upload. Videos may be uploaded by nominating teachers, parents, or the students themselves. Please note that YouTube users must be at least thirteen years old and TeacherTube users must be educators.

You will find YouTube's instructions for uploading here:

google.com/support/youtube/bin/answer.py?answer=57924&topic=10525

And for directions for tagging here:

help.youtube.com/support/youtube/bin/answer.py?answer=55769&topic=10531

After you have uploaded the video to YouTube or TeacherTube, please send an email to dy@edutopia.org. Please include

- student contact information, including full name, age, and parental contact information.
- a description of how the student uses digital media (less than 300 words).
- links to or examples of digital media the student has produced.
- a brief explanation of the student's activities and interests besides involvement with digital media.
- a link to the video submission on YouTube or TeacherTube.

The video submission is preferred but not essential; you can simply send us an email with the above information minus the YouTube/TeacherTube link. We look forward to hearing from and about some remarkable young people. Thanks!