For my digital storytelling project, the technology and tool I chose to use was the iPad2 with Davinci Note by Nota, Inc: <http://davin.ci/en/>. Students are taking photos with the iPad camera (or having pictures uploaded to the camera roll) and inserting them into Davinci Note along with text to tell their story. In the sample project, it is a combination of personal story about the student’s favorite pet that has passed away and informative text/pics about the type of animal. It is very important with Davinci Note that identifying photos of students not be included as Davinci Note has few options for publishing that do not result in a public display. Completed projects can be shared as public notes on the davin.ci site associated with the user name. An account is required which includes a username and email address so students would need to assisted to set up accounts associated with their individual school emails or a generic school email would need to be created for them to use and each student would need to use the same iPad each time since the application does not allow logging in/out on the iPad. Other options for sharing include Facebook, Twitter, copying the URL, posting on a blog (either on WordPress or Blogger) or emailing directly.

The tool itself is very easy to work with and the project could be completed in several ways. If students wanted to start with pictures first, they could either find pictures to upload to the camera roll (like some of the generic guinea pig pictures and the map) or they could take the pictures themselves with the iPad (like the pictures I included of our pet.) They could then insert text to tell the story about the pictures on the fly or they could write it out first. Another way would be to write the story and then find/take pictures to complement it. Any approach would benefit from storyboarding. For the sample project, I started with pictures and then added some text. I then decided to include generic information and sought that out from internet and paper resources. Videos cannot be added directly but you can upload them to Youtube and then post the link in the project. Audio and narration are not included. Picture formatting can be modified and depending on number of pictures and steps taken to insert pictures, various structures can be created. I used a free drawing program to create the “we miss you” sign. Basically picture you can get into the iPad’s camera roll can be inserted into a note and published along with text that the student inserts.

My Davinci Note is available for viewing at: <davin.ci/bdteach3197/2>

Basic outline of project:

Pick an animal you want to study (or that you have as a pet or would like as a pet). Consult at least two sources (at least one needs to be a book) to get facts about your animal. Create a Davinci Note digital story about your animal including pictures and facts. Use the graphic organizer provided (would be a simple what do they eat?, where do they live?, etc type of sheet) to find and organize the information about your animal.

***Common Core Standards*** – (based on the project being done with 3rd graders)

* Language arts – Writing
  + W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
  + W.3.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose
  + W.3.5 With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing
  + W.3.6 With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
  + W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
  + W.3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources, take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories
* Language arts – Reading: Informational Text
  + RI.3.1 Ask and answer questioning to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers
  + RI.3.5 Use text features and search tools to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently
  + RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text
  + RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
* Language arts – Speaking & Listening
  + SL.9-10.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence
  + SL.9-10.5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays
* Language arts - Language
  + L.9-10.1 demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
  + L.9-10.2 demonstrate command…capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
* NETS-S
  + Creativity and Innovation
  + Communication and Collaboration
  + Research and Information Fluency
  + Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making