Hi. My name is Tammy Wong-Bigelow from College Bound Dorchester. For my TIP project, I decided to integrate a mini-research paper with Google Suites. My lesson lasted thirteen days because most of my students do not have internet access from home so much of the work was done during class time, which is about an hour a day. My students researched into their family history and the culture and immigration patterns of one of the dominating cultures in their bloodline.

For their research, they got in contact with family members to decide on the culture they want to research. Some of them went on Ancestry.com to find out more because their family situations did not allow for much access into their family history. After, they used Google’s search engine or Google Books to begin their research into the immigration patterns. Their task was to write a little about their family history and then go into the largest wave of immigration of their country or culture into the United States. Afterwards, they needed to tie their family history back to their research.

While doing the research, they used Google Docs to take notes and keep track of the citation information. Then they used Google Docs to write their drafts. This is a template for them to use for their writing. (Outline on screen). They had to share their drafts with me so that I can highlight and make comments so that they could revise and edit as they go.

In the end, I used their research to create a booklet of their immigration stories. I shared this booklet with them on the last day of our cycle during our celebrations. And as you can see here, I will give them comments and then they can revise it on their own. This was what was presented to them in paper form during the celebrations.

Looking back, my students all enjoyed learning the new technology. They were impressed by what they could do if knew how to use the technology at hand. Most of them only have smart phones that they download games on. The only setback was that some of them complained that using this technology has nothing to do with their earning their HiSET. Many just want to have worksheets all day. But that’s not the way I teach.

The other downside is that my students had very little attention spans, and so many became bored during the research portion because they didn’t want to read. They were also frustrated with the vocabulary of the articles they found online. Another issue was that Ancestry.com was not very helpful for many of my students because their family histories were not as linear as the more well-to-do races and ethnicities. Or they could only go back so far never finding the original immigrants.

Lastly, I wished that I had explained to my student that the inspiration for this project was because of my own college final project sooner rather than letting them know in the middle of their research. When I told them the inspiration for the project, they were more interested and more motivated to do their own because they realized that they should know a little bit about their own family backgrounds.

I really enjoy this opportunity to learn and tie technology into my classroom. Thank you very much, and I hope that TIP keeps on using this type of format to integrate technology into the classroom.