



CONNECTED VOICES

Think About It Thursday

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Think About It Thursday - November 2013

For Middle School

What's in a Handshake?

How do we shake hands and collaborate with others in a friendly and safe way?

Your host for this month's **Connected Voices ~Think About IT Thursday** is

Mr. Al Fletcher from Williston Central School

afletcher@cssu.org

Mr. Fletcher and his students would like to extend a virtual handshake to you and see how many middle school students can 'shake back' with their own virtual handshake. Mr. Fletcher's middle school students learned about the importance of a handshake in kicking off meaningful communication during their participation with [the Flat Classroom Project](#).

Whether it's face to face or virtual, your handshake not only invites others to shake back, but it also says a lot about you. Is your handshake firm, friendly, inviting? The handshake sets the tone to further communication.

How do I participate?

- **Explore the follow student blog post** by students that also include thoughts and examples of Safe and Friendly Virtual handshakes created by Mr. Fletcher's middle school students at Williston Central School

kidblog.org/78blue2013

kidblog.org/78gold2013

- PLATFORMS (What are some good apps or programs to use that are age appropriate for creating virtual handshakes?)
- RESOURCING (How do you make quality virtual handshakes and link that are age appropriate?)
- SAFETY (What should you not do, or what should you be mindful of when 'greeting' others on the internet?)

- CULTURE (How do we show our culture and respect others in a virtual greeting?)
 - HISTORY (How have handshakes changed over time? How are they different now?)
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- Use a digital tool to create your own Safe and Friendly Virtual Handshake to share. If your virtual handshake tool gives you a link to share, use that link to share your handshake. If you used an off line tool to create your virtual handshake, upload it to Google Drive or Drop box and set the sharing permissions so that you get a link to share.
 - Share your virtual handshake with Mr. Fletcher's class using any one of the suggestions below:
1. Add a comment to this blogpost "Shake back" by Mr. Fletcher's students that includes a link to your virtual handshake.
 2. Add a Comment to the Shake Back slide of the [Virtual Handshake VoiceThread](#) and include a link to your virtual handshake in the comment. If you add a link to a comment starting with the letters http:// it will automatically turn into a link.
 3. Create a blogpost on your own blog that includes your Virtual Handshake and link that post to the Shake Back blogpost or [VoiceThread slide above](#).
 4. Create your own class virtual handshake voiceThread where each student in your class adds a video, graphic, audio or link to a slide of their virtual handshake. Make sure the voicethread is viewable. Then add the link to your class Virtual HandShake to this Shake Back blogpost or [Shake Back VoiceThread slide](#).

If you have questions, contact Mr. Fletcher at afletcher@cssu.org or connectedvoices@vita-learn.org