

Dipity Tutorial

Description:

- Dipity is a free and easy-to-use, online program for making interactive, multimedia timelines.
- It allows anyone to upload video, audio, and images with the interest of making timelines that are more dynamic and visually compelling.

Getting Started:

- 1) Sign up for a free account at <http://www.dipity.com/>. After clicking on the “Sign In” button at the top right of the screen, you will need to provide an e-mail address, username, and password.

Join Dipity (or [sign in](#))

Join Dipity to start creating timelines and following topics.

First Name:

Last Name:

Username:
<http://www.dipity.com/username>

Password:

Email:

Timeline Description and Permission Settings:

- 2) Once you have signed up for an account, click on the “Create a Timeline” button on the top navigation bar. This will take you to a screen that prompts you to enter information about your timeline, including your timeline’s title (“Topic Name”), a short description, and the permission and privacy settings for your project.

Permissions: Private

Anyone

People you follow

The following people

Enter user names or email addresses separated by commas


This last item is very important to consider when publishing content produced by young children.

- a. If you wish to keep the timeline visible only to your class, click the bubble marked "Private."
- b. If you wish to share the timeline with specific people (i.e. parents, other teachers), click the bubble marked "The Following People" and enter the e-mail addresses of those who you want to share the timeline with, separated by commas.

You can also set the degree of control the user has over viewing, adding to, or editing your timeline.

- a. In the pull-down menu, if you click "Can View," the user can only view your timeline.
- b. If you click "Can Contribute," the user can contribute new events to the timeline (more on this later).
- c. If you click "Can Edit," the user can edit existing events.

After you are done filling out the user preferences, click on the yellow "Continue to Add Events" button in the bottom right screen.



Continue to Add Events

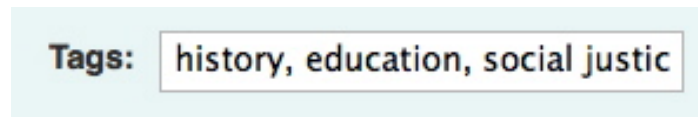
Advanced Settings:

- 3) One of the coolest things about Dipity is that it allows you to toggle between different frameworks of time. For instance, your timeline could span merely one day or five thousand years depending on what you choose as your "Default Zoom." Choose whatever time span is appropriate for your project from the "Default Zoom" drop down menu.



Automatic
Half Hour
Hour
Day
3 Days
Week
Month
3 Months
6 Months
1 Year
2 Years
5 Years
10 Years
25 Years
50 Years
100 Years
250 Years
500 Years
1000 Years
5000 Years

- 4) On this page, you can also choose the date that you want the timeline to center on when it first loads for the viewer. If you do not set this “Center on Date” function, the timeline will automatically center on today’s date.
- 5) You can also enter any tags that you want associated with your timeline. This is useful if your project is public and you want it to be searchable from the Dipity user search engine.

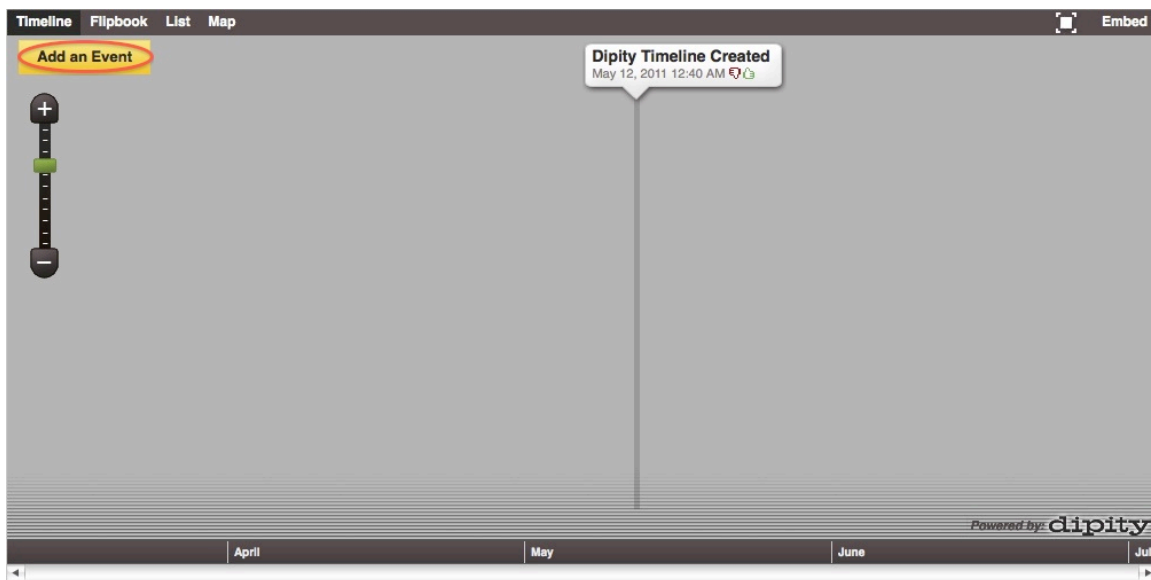


- 6) Finally, you can choose from a number of background colors and visual themes under the “Themes” radio button. When you are done with all of these items, click on the green “Save and View Timeline” button in the bottom right corner of the screen.



Adding and Editing Events:

- 7) This will bring you to the main Dipity timeline screen.



Right now, the timeline only has one event, “Dipity Timeline Created,” but this will disappear once you create your first event. To do so, click on the yellow “Add an Event” button in the upper left of the screen (circled red in the image above).

- 8) This will prompt an “Add an Event” pop-up box to appear. Here is where you will add descriptions and media for each event in your timeline.

The screenshot shows a pop-up window titled "Editing Cristy - I was a flower girl in a wedding." with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form contains the following fields and elements:

- Title:** A text input field containing "Cristy - I was a flower girl in a wedding."
- Date:** A text input field containing "2008" and a small calendar icon on the right.
- Description:** A text area containing "It was important because it was my cousin's wedding."
- Picture:** A small thumbnail image, an "Upload" button, the word "or", and a text input field containing "http://cdn.dipity.com/uploads" with an "OK" button.
- Link:** An empty text input field.
- Location:** An empty text input field.
- Video URL:** An empty text input field.
- Buttons:** "Cancel" and "Save" buttons at the bottom right. The "Save" button is highlighted in green.

Most of the fields just prompt you to enter in the appropriate text, but the “Date” field requires specific formatting.

"Jan 1, 2002 6pm" or "1998 to 2004"

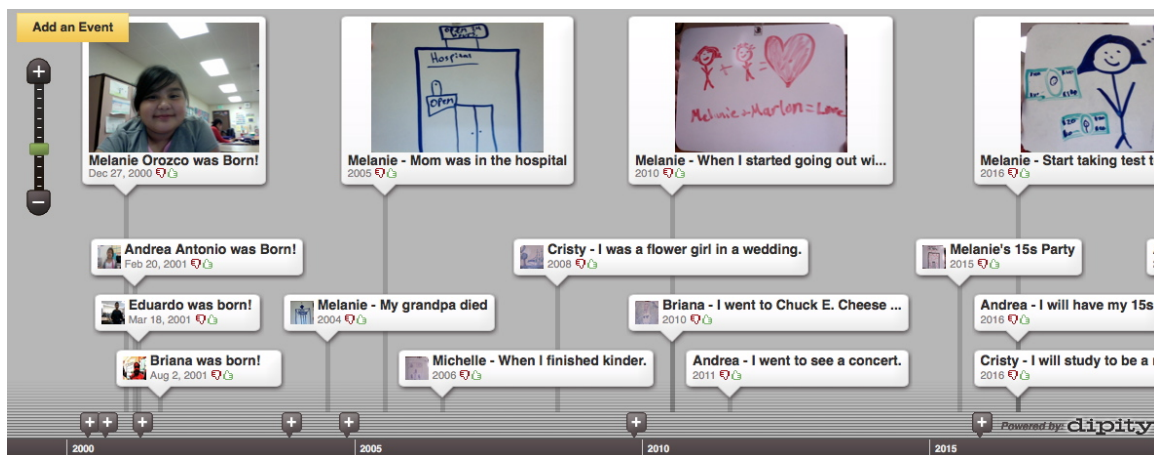
If you are entering a specific day, be sure to use the month’s three-letter abbreviation, followed by the day of the month and a comma. For an event spanning two dates, use the word “to” to connect them.

Other features of this screen include:

- Clicking on the upload button will allow you to upload a picture from your hard drive.
 - Entering a URL into the “Link” field will make a link appear in the event description.
 - “Location” allows you to enter the spatial coordinates of an event to place it on a Google Map, but this feature is only available in the “Premium” (not free) version of Dipity.
 - “Video URL” allows you to embed a video from Youtube directly into your timeline. Just copy and paste the URL.
- 9) After clicking on the green “Save” button in the lower right hand corner, you will see the finished event on the timeline! And when the user clicks on the event in the timeline, they will see an information box much like this.



10) Add as many events as you want to complete your timeline! If you wish to edit or delete an event you created, just click on the green “Edit” or “Delete” buttons in the upper right corner of the screen.

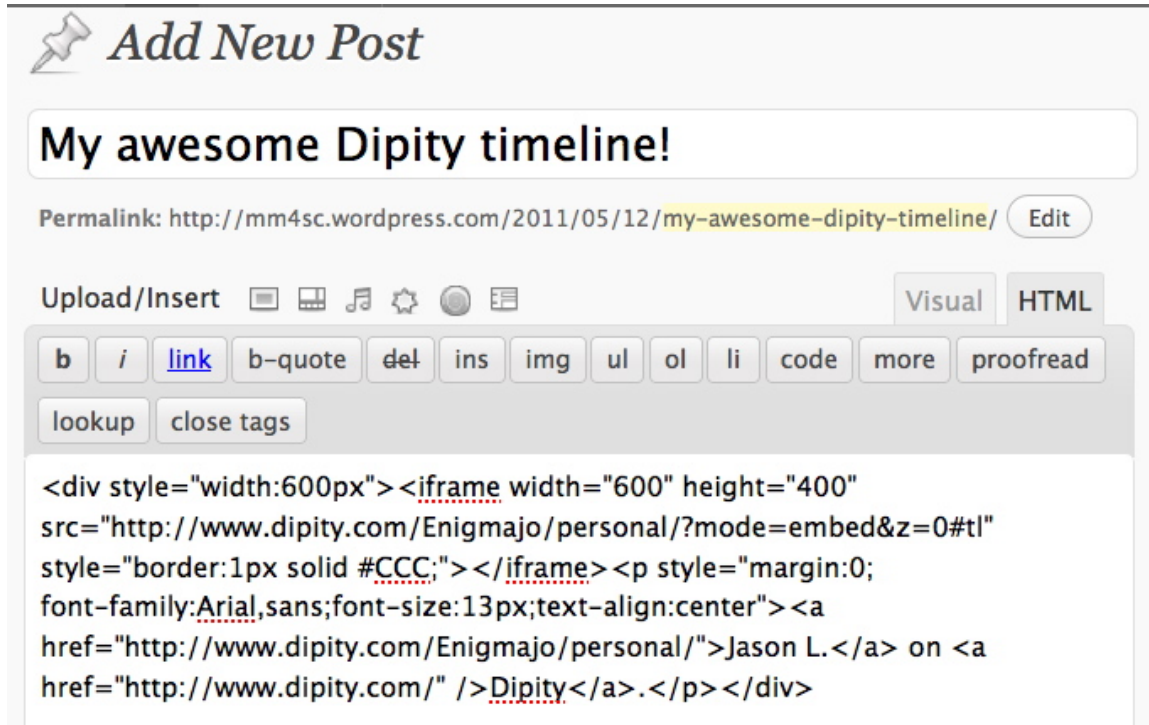


Sharing and Embedding:

11) Dipity allows you a variety of ways to share your timeline through social media platforms. Click on one of the social media icons (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Digg) to post the link to your Dipity timeline on your account in one or more of these platforms.



12) Built in Flash, Dipity is embeddable in most websites. Just click on the “Embed” link in the upper right hand corner of the main timeline window, copy the embed code that appears in the pop-up window, and paste it into any backend HTML editor. Here is an example from the popular blogging platform Wordpress.



The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Add New Post' editor. At the top, there is a pin icon and the text 'Add New Post'. Below that is a text box containing the title 'My awesome Dipity timeline!'. Underneath the title is a permalink: 'http://mm4sc.wordpress.com/2011/05/12/my-awesome-dipity-timeline/' with an 'Edit' button to its right. Below the permalink is a toolbar with 'Upload/Insert' and various icons. To the right of the toolbar are two tabs: 'Visual' and 'HTML', with 'HTML' being the active tab. Below the tabs is a row of buttons for text formatting: 'b', 'i', 'link', 'b-quote', 'del', 'ins', 'img', 'ul', 'ol', 'li', 'code', 'more', and 'proofread'. Below these buttons are two more buttons: 'lookup' and 'close tags'. The main content area shows the following HTML code:

```
<div style="width:600px"> <iframe width="600" height="400"
src="http://www.dipity.com/Enigmajo/personal/?mode=embed&z=0#tl"
style="border:1px solid #CCC;"></iframe> <p style="margin:0;
font-family:Arial,sans;font-size:13px;text-align:center"><a
href="http://www.dipity.com/Enigmajo/personal/">Jason L.</a> on <a
href="http://www.dipity.com/" />Dipity</a>.</p></div>
```

More Questions:

13) If you are still in need of assistance, check out the “Help” button at the bottom of the Dipity homepage. It provides a very helpful list of FAQs.