Storytelling, Amplifying the Human Connection in Online Learning

Center for Distributed Learning
Storytelling, Amplifying the Human Connection in Online Learning

Faculty Seminars in Online Teaching

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Have you ever used digital storytelling in your courses?
Overview

• What is digital storytelling and why should you use it?

• Resources and examples for digital storytelling

• Recommendations for effective implementation
What is storytelling in the online environment?

• Sharing of one's story through multiple mediums
• Digital imagery, text, voice, sound, music, video, and animation

Why tell stories?

• Promote interaction
• Authentic learning experiences
• Build community
• Engagement
• Strengthen digital literacy & technology skills
Storytelling online can occur in...

- Blogs
- Discussion/journal posts
- Images
- ePortfolios
- Podcasts
- Slideshows/presentations
- Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube)
- Synchronous platforms (web conferencing tools, Facebook Live)
- Videos
  - Role-play
  - Demonstrations
  - Simulations
- Websites
Digital Story Implementation

Capstone Learning Outcomes

• Analyze a specific problem in a real-world situation (in your service organization), develop an interdisciplinary outcome for that problem.

• Practice proficiency with various technologies (e-Portfolio, videos, digital storytelling) as a method of research, form of analysis, and tool of communication.
Developing a Digital Story Process

Overall Purpose of the Story
Narrator’s Point of View
A Dramatic Question (or Questions)
Choice of Content
Clarity of Voice
Pacing of the Narrative
Meaningful Soundtrack
Quality of the Images
Economy of the Story Detail
Good Grammar and Language Usage

(Morra, 2017)

(University of Houston, 2017)
## The Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Point of view</strong> What is the main point of the story and what is the perspective of the author?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>A dramatic question</strong> A key question that keeps the viewer's attention and will be answered by the end</td>
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<td></td>
<td>of the story.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Emotional content</strong> Serious issues that come alive in a personal and powerful way and connects the</td>
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<td>story to the audience.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>The gift of your voice</strong> A way to personalize the story to help the audience understand the context.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>The power of the soundtrack</strong> Music or other sounds that support and embellish the storyline.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td><strong>Economy</strong> Using just enough content to tell the story without overloading the viewer.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>Pacing</strong> The rhythm of the story and how slowly or quickly it progresses.</td>
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(University of Houston, 2017)
Script and Storyboarding

What your script should include:

a) Explanation of research problem and question  
b) Real-world example(s) of the problem (using the service organization as the basis)  
c) What it means to address a problem in an interdisciplinary manner  
d) Presentation of how interdisciplinary outcome will address problem and specifics about how (why) it would work

(Wegmann, 2009)
Creating Community with the Digital Story

Write to an audience
- Develop rhetorical context
- Relate back to assignment’s objectives

Provide transparency
- Provide rubric and practice
- Provide examples of previous student digital stories
- Develop reflections

Engage in peer review workshops
- Use prompts focusing on the Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling
Digital stories & student engagement

**Student’s Role**
- Thinks freely but within the limits of the activity
- Tests predictions and hypothesis
- Forms new predictions and hypothesis
- Trial and error
- Records observations and ideas

**Teacher’s Role**
- Encourages students to work together without direction instruction
- Observes and listens to the students as they interact
- Asks probing questions and redirects student investigations when necessary
- Provides time for students to puzzle through the problem

(Montgomery County Public Schools, 2001)
Resources

References

Websites and Articles
• Digital Storytelling Tips and Resources
• How to Create Storyboards
• Digital Story Evaluation Rubric
• Storytelling in the Classroom as a Teaching Strategy
• Digital Storytelling Offers a Powerful Tool for Reflection
• Digital Storytelling site by Helen C. Barrett, Ph.D.

Technical Resources
• Adobe Spark is a free tool for digital storytelling and ePortfolios. The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) offer occasional Adobe Spark trainings.
• Bubbl.us mind map is a free tool for graphically representing ideas and concepts.
Thank you for attending!

Feel free to contact us:

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Questions & Answers

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