

Digital Storytelling Tips

What is Digital Storytelling?

Digital Storytelling refers to using new media to tell personal stories, including:

- 1) Character Stories relate experiences concerning relationships between people
- 2) Memorial Stories honor and remember people who are important to you
- 3) Adventure Stories discuss travel experience and the resulting personal exploration
- 4) Accomplishment Stories describe the achievement of a goal
- 5) Place Stories describe an important place in a person's life
- 6) Job Stories discuss the storytellers profession
- 7) Recovery Stories describe overcoming a great challenge
- 8) Love Stories talk about romance between people
- 9) Discover Stories relate personal realizations and epiphanies about a subject
- 10) Your Story!

Seven Steps of Digital Storytelling

- Step 1) Own Your Insights – find your voice and speak in the first person, this is your story
- Step 2) Own Your Emotions – show your feelings, this makes a story real for yourself and others
- Step 3) Find the Moment – clarify the story's meaning, highlight change, manage information
- Step 4) See Your Story – experiment with visual material, crop photographs, pause video, visuals bring a story to life and should augment your story, not overpower it
- Step 5) Hear Your Story – music is supremely important to the emotional tone of a story, choose wisely and honor original creators by crediting them
- Step 6) Assembling Your Story – does your story make sense, do you include enough background information, **script** your story, a straightforward story is often the most powerful
- Step 7) Share Your Story – how will the story be presented, a story online vs. a live venue might require subtle differences in timing, editing, etc. consider these possibilities

Technology Required for Digital Storytelling

One of the greatest benefits of digital storytelling centers on the low production costs associated with creating the media artifact. The most basic set-up involves a computer (laptop/desktop), an image capture device (webcam, camera, mobile phone), and video/audio editing software.

Online Resources for Digital Storytelling

There are numerous resources online for finding tutorials and raw materials (e.g., images, video, music) to use in your digital stories. The following links provide access to a practically endless supply of these materials. Remember, if you use media created by someone else, you should credit the creator(s). If you need help using a piece of software, search Google and/or YouTube for tutorials.

Center for Digital Storytelling – www.storycenter.org

Stories for Change – www.storiesforchange.net

50 Ways to Tell a Web 2.0 Digital Story – www.cogdogroo.wikispaces.com/50+Ways (*)

Creative Commons – www.creativecommons.org

Internet Archive – www.archive.org

Jamendo – www.jamendo.com

Free Sound – www.freesound.org