Introduction to Digital Storytelling

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Sherubtse College, October 2017

Digital Stories

- Usually told in first person: self-revelatory

- Brief: usually 2-3 minutes long

- Photos more than moving image (though both can be used)

- Soundtrack often adds mood and meaning

- Participatory media with a focus on process and community building

Sources/Inspirations

- Center for Digital Storytelling (CDS): www.storycenter.org

- Ruben Puentadura: www.hippasus.com/rrpweblog

Provisional Schedule

. <u>Introduction to Digital Storytelling</u> (**Day 1**, 9:00-10:15)

. Story Circle (10:30-12:00)

. Scriptwriting and revision (1:00-3:30)

. Voice-over recording using GarageBand (3:30-5:00)

. Visual communication; Image gathering and editing (Afterlight) (**Day 2**, 9-11)

. Video editing with iMovie on iPad: the basics (11-12:30)

. Digital story construction: to rough cut (1:30-2:30)

. Video editing with iMovie on iPad: rough cut to final cut (2:30-3:30)

. Digital story polishing (3:30-4:30)

. Public showing (4:30-5:30)

Steps of Digital Storytelling

. Find your message/own your insight

. Find your hook

. Hear your story

. See your story

. Compose your story

1. Find your message

- What's your key idea?

- Why do you NEED to tell this story?

- Who's your audience? Why do they NEED to hear this story?

- Why do you need to tell this story NOW?

2. Find the hook
(the feeling, the moment)

- What will engage your audience throughout the story? (a dramatic question, a problem to resolve, a scene of change)

- As you tell this story, what feelings push the story forward? What feelings make it hard to share the story?

- What changed for you as a result of this story? Can you help us see, hear, feel the moment when things changed?

3. Hear your story:
recognize the importance of your voice

- Voice: an invitation to intimacy; a guarantor of authenticity

- Dialogue: performative energy

- Soundtrack: emotional support

4. See your story

- Images can…

  - tell a complementary story

  - offer metaphors

  - set mood

- Avoid literalism: using a photo for every noun

- Consider using portions of a single image

5. Compose your story

- Pace: use pauses & changes in tempo to create peak moments

  - Consider using a storyboard to shape your story's arc

- Economy

  - use all modes of communication: words and silence, image (including text) and blank (or black) screen

  - less is more: don't use words and images to express the same idea at the same time

  - let viewers collaborate in making meaning

  - non-prescriptive norms: 250-300 words, 15-20 images, 2-3 min

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Story Circle Guidelines

- Listen deeply; don't interrupt the storyteller

- Start by appreciating something about the story

- Remember that the storyteller owns the story: consider beginning comments with the phrase, "If this were my story"

- Avoid repetition of comments (use snaps, ASL applause, other)

- Maintain confidentiality

- Take notes for storyteller on your right

- Timing: 10 minutes/person; roughly 5 min telling, 5 min feedback