Digital Storytelling

What is Digital Storytelling?

Digital storytelling is the practice of using computer-based tools to tell a story. This can take a variety of forms, but will involve the art of telling a story using a variety of multimedia such as images, graphics, sound, and video. As with traditional storytelling, most digital stories focus on a specific topic and contain a particular point of view.

Why Would You Use It?

- Digital stories can be instructional, persuasive, historical, or reflective.
- Some learning theorists believe that as a pedagogical technique, storytelling can be effectively applied to nearly any subject.
- Digital storytelling helps students work in issues that have relevance both in the classroom and the world beyond. Students can be inspired by—or have their work affirmed from—sources inside and outside the academy.
- The format encourages students to think about making their work for an audience and makes them aware of the purpose of voice in the construction of an argument.
- Students report that they are more aware of the compositional strategies involved in writing after they work on multimedia authoring projects.

How Do You Get Started?

1. Explore the Center for Digital Storytelling (http://www.storycenter.org) for assignment ideas. This site includes many case studies and examples.

2. Choose a tool. Here are some tools to consider:
   - Big Huge Labs (http://bighugelabs.com/)
   - Edgar StoryCrafter (http://edgartells.me/crafter)
   - Flickr (https://www.flickr.com/)
   - MovieCaptioner (http://www.synchrmedia.com/#movcaptioner)
   - Screencast-o-matic (http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/)
   - Storify (https://storify.com/)
   - Tableau (http://www.tableausoftware.com/)
   - Twitter (https://twitter.com/)
   - Voicethread (http://voicethread.com/)

And some apps:

- Animoto (https://animoto.com/) for IOS and Android
- Explain Everything (http://www.morriscooke.com) for iOS, Android, Windows
- Replay (http://replayapp.com/) for iOS
- Storehouse (https://www.storehouse.co/) for iOS

For an assignment, you could also let your students choose based on what appeals to them. There are many sites that list hundreds of free tools giving students enormous creative latitude.
How Do You Get Training?

Most of the tools can be learned in minutes and provide demonstration videos and guides. Design and Development is also willing to help. Depending on the elements included in the digital story, you might need a recording device and microphone, hardware and software to manipulate images and video, or tools to take pictures and video. Frequently you have all of these tools on a mobile device.

How Can You Get Help?

DDS staff can provide help with many of the tools listed here.

Contact Wendy Lampner (wjl3@uakron.edu, x2149) for assistance.

Where Can You Learn More?

  University of Houston College of Education
  http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/
- The Center for Digital Storytelling
  http://www.storycenter.org/
  Site includes case studies and articles
- Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community
  by Joe Lambert
  Published by Routledge
  ISBN: 978-0-415-62703-0
- Digital Storytelling Multimedia Archive and Website shares the results of several years of research by Matthias Oppermann (Bielefeld University, Germany) and Michael Coventry (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.).
  https://pilot.cndls.georgetown.edu/digitalstories/

A Springboard site is in development. Contact DDS to be added to this site.