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# Digital Storytelling: How to Bring Your Stories to Life

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# Digital Storytelling

HOW TO BRING YOUR STORIES TO LIFE

# Digital Storytelling

Everyone has a story to tell – but how can we effectively communicate these stories to our online students? Using photographs, copyright-free music, and iMovie '09, this session will demonstrate the creation of a short digital story from start to finish. The finished movie can be posted to a website or LMS to share with students.

# The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling – University of Houston

- http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/

- British photographer, educator and digital storyteller, Daniel Meadows defines digital stories as "short, personal multimedia tales told from the heart."

- Seven Elements of Storytelling and two nice articles (http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/7elements.html

# Center for Digital Storytelling

- http://www.storycenter.org

- Resources page
  (http://www.storycenter.org/resources.html)

# Tech Head Stories: Digital Storytelling

- http://www.tech-head.com/dstory.htm

- Links to many resources, including Educational Programs

# Uses for Digital Stories in the Classroom

- Anticipatory set

- Main content presentation

- Lesson closure

- Student demonstrations of mastery

# Teacher-Produced versus Student-Produced

What students can learn from creating digital stories (Robin, 2008):

- Research skills
- Writing skills
- Organization skills
- Technology skills
- Presentation skills
- Interview skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Assessment skills

# Steps to Make a Digital Story

- Planning
- Storyboarding
- Scripting
- Collecting assets
- Making assets
- Producing video

# Example of Assets

- Still pictures
- Video
- Narration
- Music
- Sound effects
- Written text

# Reasons to Tell Digital Stories

- Project-based information gathering

- Personal reflection

- Authentic problem-solving

# More About Digital Stories

- Any curriculum area – even math and science

- Special ed students

- Need to teach students to work on planning, research, and organization, focusing on the story instead of the technology and assets

# Modified Storytelling Elements

- Based on CDS's Seven Elements for Digital Stories (Robin & Pierson, 2008)
    1. The Overall Purpose of the Story
    2. The Narrator's Point of View
    3. A Dramatic Question or Questions
    4. The Choice of Content
    5. Clarity of Voice
    6. Pacing of the Narrative
    7. Use of Meaningful Audio Soundtrack
    8. Quality of the Images
    9. Economy of the Story Detail
    10. Good Grammar and Language Usage

# Make It Personal

- Find a small story that can tell the bigger story
- Find and follow a character
  - Most compelling person
  - Don't be misled by "important" people
- Allow the character to tell you the story
- Resist the urge to interview
  - Follow subject and ask questions as they arise
  - Simple questions work best

# References

Robin, B. R. (2008). *Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling.* Retrieved March 13, 2009, from Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling: http://fp.coe.uh.edu/brobin/homepage/Educaional-Uses-DS.pdf

Robin, B. R., & Pierson, M. E. (2008). *A Multilevel Approach to Using Digital Storytelling in the Classroom.* Retrieved March 13, 2009, from Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling: http://fp.coe.uh.edu/brobin/homepage/SITE2005-article.htm

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