DIGITAL STORYTELLING

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OVERVIEW OF DIGITAL STORYTELLING
WHAT IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

- An illustration of learning
- A way of documenting an experience(s)
- One way to facilitate the reflection process
  - 4-6 minute digital video clip
  - First person narrative
  - Told in your own voice
  - Illustrated (mostly) by still images
  - Additional music added to evoke emotions
WHAT IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

- Refers to a kind of video story as well as the methodology used to produce them

The methodology is the integration of knowledge, cutting, paraphrasing, revising, synthesizing, and reflecting (Alexander, 2001).
**EXAMPLES**

- **Justin Ellis**, Graduate student in Museum Studies – Benefit of his education to address social issues

- **Mat Hobson**, First Year Seminar/SL/TLC - Demonstrates integration of knowledge. Asked students to think about their service experience, their class on Conflict Resolution, and their Communications (speech) class to formulate an argument. Discusses root causes of a social issue and how it is being addressed.

- **Nichole Davis**, Co-Curricular experience, Graduate student in SPEA, Non-Profit Management, Reflecting upon an experience that has shaped her civic identity.

- **Capstone PSY course**. Students were asked to think about their experiences in the program articulate what they have learned and how it shaped their personal, professional, and/or civic identity. **Awaiting response from student to make sure we can share this with others**
WHAT MAKES FOR A GREAT DIGITAL STORY?

- Overall purpose of the story
- Narrator’s point of view (emotional content)
- A dramatic question
- 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
Provides evidence of learning in a way that is appealing to employers (beyond text)

Enables demonstration of skills otherwise hard to articulate or demonstrate (civic skills)

Allows for creativity and personality. A powerful form of communication (McLellan, 2006).

Increases technological capabilities or a way to demonstrate existing skills (video editing, production)
  - Builds capacity to create something of value to future employers (learning more than how to work with Word, PowerPoint, Excel)

Practice response to interview questions (‘elevator speech’ – what did you learn)
Highlight academic projects, interests or initiatives, but most importantly, to reflect on how we are shaped by the stories we live and how we in turn share our diverse identities (Wright & Ryan, 2010).
When the writer is engaged personally with a topic, they impart a personal tone and flavor to the piece that is unmistakably his/hers alone. It is the heart and soul of the writing, the magic, and wit, the feeling, the life and breath.

“When words are infused by the human voice, they come alive” – Maya Angelou
STEPS TO CREATE A DIGITAL STORY: HOW THIS DIFFERS FROM TRADITIONAL REFLECTION
Forces students to consider the following:

- Audience
- What the experience meant to them
- How students identify with others
WRITE THE REFLECTION

- IMPORTANT – Communicate the importance of the writing
  - Consider your audience
  - Make meaning of your experiences
  - How your experiences apply to your future
  - How you have a more developed sense of self

- Attention given to reflection prompts (narrow)
STORYBOARDING

- Identify/highlight important concepts/ideas
  - Helps with editing/proofing
  - Assists with timing & pace of the story
  - Helps to identify what images to gather
  - Aids in the recording process
"I don’t care how poor a man is; if he has family, he’s rich”.

(Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford)

As I volunteered with Holy Family Shelter, family was a concept at heart with each person I engaged with. Life’s challenges has placed them into situations that resulted into homeless but their family remains consistent. When they are up against all odds staring into the faces of their children gives them the motivation and desire to keep moving. Even with an unstableness of their family women and men try to hold onto the pieces with hopes that tomorrow will bring opportunities that would save them from their present situation. Just one phone call or visit has the potential to change the lives of their family.

“The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.” Vince Lombardi

The rules that confine families are there to better them, though the benefits are not easily seen or with an immediate outcome. The path for success is given, the support is provided, and the resources are near. Some families embrace the support and resources and venture down a path of success while other abuse the services and opportunities. The rejection of the structure and rules that would establish a stable life and shelter surfing or visiting one bad situation to another is choice that some make. Families that have maximized their stay take care of their responsibilities so that they will not have to revisit the experience. A lesson is learned.

“We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.” Stacia Tauscher

The children I have met have all embraced me with loving arms. Not all of them understand that they are temporarily homeless, residing in a shelter. All they know is the love they receive from their families and volunteers. There is great importance on trying to maintain stability within families while parents are experiencing such a difficult situation. The innocence of the children helps them to live a partially normal childhood but is also refreshing to see the laughter and joy they bring to the empty halls and rooms of the facility. Children reading, sharing stories and toys with each other reinforces good childhood memories.

“Some people will never learn anything, for this reason, because they understand everything too soon.” Alexander Pope
Step 2: Identify when the transitions will occur. The “///” indicate the start of the next image.

As I volunteered with **Holy Family Shelter**, /// family was a concept at heart with each person I engaged with. /// Life’s challenges has placed them into situations that resulted into **homeless** but their family remains consistent. /// When they are **up against all odds**, staring into the faces of their children gives them the /// **motivation** and /// **desire** to keep moving. Even with an unsteadiness of their family women and men try to hold onto the pieces with hopes that /// **tomorrow will bring opportunities** that would save them from their present situation. Just one phone call or visit has the potential to change the lives of their family.

/// “The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.” **Vince Lombardi**

/// The rules that **confine** families are there to better them, though the benefits are not easily seen or with an immediate outcome. /// The **path** for success is given, /// the **support** is provided, /// the **resources** are near. Some families embrace the support and resources and venture down of path of success while other abuse the services and opportunities. /// The rejection of the structure and rules that would establish a stable life and shelter surfing or visiting one bad situation to another is **choice** that some make. /// Families that have maximized their stay take care of their responsibilities so that they will not have to revisit the experience. **A lesson is learned.**

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GATHER AN IMAGE FOR EACH CONCEPT/IDEA HIGHLIGHTED

- Free from the web (Google images, Flickr)
  - Educational Opportunity on Copyright Laws and Intellectual Property
    - [http://connect.iu.edu/p2l850pbun6/](http://connect.iu.edu/p2l850pbun6/)

- Create using PowerPoint, then export as JPEG

- Snipping Tool
  - (Start Menu > All Programs > Accessories)

- Get your own!
COLLECTING IMAGES AND CITATIONS

- **Using Google Images**
  - Safe Search
  - Advanced Search and “usage rights”

- **One way to find and document royalty-free images**
  1. Go to a **copyright free** website e.g. [http://search.creativecommons.org/](http://search.creativecommons.org/)
  2. Enter search word to find images for your story e.g. <computer>
  3. Select the image that you like.
  4. Right click on the image
     - If you are using Firefox, select the “Copy Image Location”
     - If you are using Internet Explorer, select the properties and copy the URL from the opening window.

- **How to avoid copyright law infringement with digital media**
## SELECT A PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>iMovie (Mac)</th>
<th>PhotoStory 3 (PC)</th>
<th>Windows Live Movie Maker (PC)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garageband (audio)</td>
<td>Built-in Audio recorder</td>
<td>Audacity (audio)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built-in music</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pros:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pros:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pros:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ideal for Mac users,</td>
<td>• Great transition tool</td>
<td>• More commonly known</td>
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<tr>
<td>• great templates (transitions),</td>
<td>• Easy to photo editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>• nice editing tool,</td>
<td>• Built-in tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>• automatically publishes to YouTube</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cons:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cons:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cons:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• challenging to get started (even for Mac users)</td>
<td>• Small screen</td>
<td>• Less flexibility with transitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• hard for non-PC users</td>
<td>• Final product can seem</td>
<td>• Must combine narrative and music on other software (Audacity)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>choppier (recording on each slide)</td>
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<td>• Will not work for Windows 8 ****</td>
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Google Drive – Metta Story

- Instructions:
  - Go to Google Drive
  - Click on “CREATE”
  - Click “CONNECT MORE APPS”
  - Search for “Metta Story”

Type your text here.
CLOUD-BASED ALTERNATIVES (CONT)

Google Chrome - **WeVideo**

**WeVideo - Video Editor and Maker**

- Works with Google Drive
- WeVideo makes video editing easy for everyone and accessible from anywhere.

**GENERAL**
- Supports 8 languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Russian, Japanese and Arabic)

**EDITING**
- Three Editing Modes - to suit novices and experts alike: Storyboard, Timeline and Advanced mode
- Connect to Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Google Drive & Dropbox to easily use photos, videos, music & graphics files already uploaded
- Drag & drop media files in any order to assemble your story
- Trim video clips to focus on key moments
- Split long clips into smaller ones and re-arrange
- Enter text for titles and captions in your native language (most languages supported)
SELECT MUSIC

- Free MP3 conversion resources
  - [http://www.youtube-mp3.org/](http://www.youtube-mp3.org/)
  - [www.zamzar.com](http://www.zamzar.com)

- Search YouTube for karaoke version of a song
SHARE/PUBLISH

- YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com/](http://www.youtube.com/))
  - Public
  - Unlisted ****
  - Private

- Vimeo ([http://www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com))

- Your ePortfolio!
QUICK TIPS/LESSONS LEARNED

- 100 words per minute
- Number of images
- Using video
- Group vs individual
- Scaffolding reflection
- Timing within a course (reflection, feedback on reflection, Storyboard, feedback on storyboard, final product)
- Assessment challenges
  - Emotional content
  - Identifying the learning you want to see vs other evidence
  - Multiple forms of communication
  - What to ‘grade’ (especially in comparison to an existing assignment)
QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact me (Kristin Norris – norriske@iupui.edu)