

Digital Storytelling across the Curriculum

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Synopsis:

Learn how to integrate digital storytelling into the curriculum and see how “digital story starters” can be used to get students up and running.

Ideas for twenty different digital story projects for use in a variety of curriculum areas and grade levels.

What is Digital Storytelling?

- Sharing stories through words, pictures, video and audio.
- Often autobiographical
- Goes beyond just autobiographical vignettes; includes many kinds of stories and writing genres, including fiction and technical writing.

Challenges in the Classroom:

- Emphasizes tech skills more than writing skills.
- Technical problems
- Access to technology, hardware and software
- Time consuming to create
- Not integrated into subjects other than language arts.
- Don't mistake activity for achievement.
- Too technical for most students in younger grades to do.
- Measurable?, tied to standards?
- Privacy, appropriateness issues
- Copyright violations.

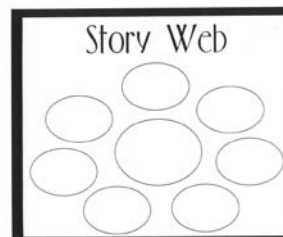
Benefits of Digital Storytelling:

- Develops writing and reading skills
- Integrates research skills
- Uses organizational skills & knowledge management
- Develops problem-solving skills
- Develops visual literacy skills
“Students use both words and pictures to communicate.”
- Outlet for creativity enhancement and personal expression
- Develops technology skills
- Can be tied to standards
- Information literacy
- Fosters presentation skills

A ten step model for creating digital stories:

1. Start with a good story
2. Write an outline/script
3. Storyboard
4. Brainstorm visual ideas, music
5. Find visuals, shoot
6. Edit visuals
7. Add titles, graphics
8. Record narration
9. Match visuals to audio, add music
10. Produce, revise, present, distribute

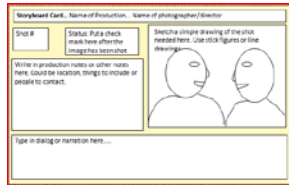
Story web



Sequence Page

(TIME) BEFORE	WENT TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK AT AGE 6	FELL OFF THE PEAKS WHEEL	I DROPPED MY STAMP WHEN I WAS
WENT TO THE HOSPITAL	DAD ASKED MY STAMP HOSPITAL TO ME	YARD CARE I VISITED DAD IN HOSPITAL - WAS HE AGE 11	BRACKET WAS MY MONEY?

Storyboard card



3. A challenge they faced was...
4. One of the most interesting persons I've studied is...
5. He or she is famous for...
6. He or she was born in...
7. A challenge they had was...
8. Something many people don't know about this person is...
9. The most interesting thing about this person is that...
10. Something I like in people is...
11. Who are your favorite people?

Tips for building:

- Help students brainstorm
- Help students organize and enhance ideas.
- Have students create a script and storyboard cards
- Check the writing
- Identify keywords
- Use stills and/or video
- Allow students to use clip art
- Limit length, number of images.
- Storyboard card

Ideas for specific stories:

- Profile a family member or friend
- Interview and photograph a local celebrity
- Interview a vet or a senior citizen
- Honor the memory of a person who has passed away
- Profile another student or teacher

Working with the Software

Corel VideoStudio X2

Writing genres:

- Personal narrative
- Personal expression
- Instructional / informational
- Curriculum links:
- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Cross-curriculum
- Fine Arts

Digital story starters:

- Lesson plans and worksheets
- A template that guides them through writing a story.
- Add words, graphics, still photos and even video clips to craft a story.
- *Clicker* - young students can simply click on pop-up word lists and pictures.

National subject area standards developed:

English:

- Communication Skills
- Communication Strategies
- Applying Knowledge
- Multicultural Understanding
- Applying Language Skills

Sample Template & Lesson Plan:

A Special Person

Sentence starters:

1. The most interesting person I've ever met is...
2. This person is special because...

Social Sciences Standards:

- Places and Regions
- Human Systems
- Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago

- The History of Students' Own State or Region
- The History of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World
- Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)
- Contemporary United States (1968 to the Present)

National Educational Technology Standards developed (NETS):

- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Research and Information Fluency
- Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving & Decision-Making
- Digital Citizenship
- Technology Operations & Concepts

Unique features:

- Can be used on a historical figure as a History project
- Can be used on a scientist as a Science project
- Can be "Most Unforgettable Person" theme
- Can be used as a memorial to a person who has passed away

Teacher tips:

- Have students read a biography to prepare.
- Perhaps give them a list of possible people to profile.
- Help students find photos.
- Follow up ideas:
- Print out a booklet to give.
- Create a bulletin board display.
- Create a composite story of several special people.

Images in the clip art folder:

- People, vocations, maps, work objects, buildings.
- Music and sound effects ideas:

List of project templates:

1. All About Me –
A multimedia autobiography
2. Family History Video Essay-
Profile your cultural heritage
3. Word Builders -
A story about a new vocabulary word
4. Digital Diary-
Photojournalism assignment
5. My Review-
D.B.R. (Digital Book Review)
6. Creativity-
An expository essay
7. Tell a Tale-
Make up a fairy tale
8. Phoetry-
Illustrate a poem
9. No Words-
Tell a story using just pictures
10. My Report-
Create a report on any topic
11. Create an Ad-
Sell a product or persuade people into action
12. Make a Difference-
Document a local problem
13. Vocabulary Builders-
Tell a story using new vocabulary words
14. Take a Trip-
Recount a fieldtrip or other trip you've been on
15. Guess Who-
Give 8 clues about a person you are profiling
16. Special Person-
Write about the most interesting person you've met
17. Special Place-
Write about a place you've been or want to visit
18. Special Thing-
Share a story about an object that has special meaning to you
19. How To-
Explain how to do something step-by-step
20. Creature Features-
Write a story about a non-human character, real or mythical

Curriculum Projects:

Language Arts:

- Any type of story
- All About Me
- Tell a Tale
- Digital Book Report (DBR)
- Digital Diary

Social Studies:

- Family history
- Intergenerational storytelling
- Community stories
- Going back in time
- Virtual travels

Science:

- How To ...
- Creature Features
- Curriculum Projects:

Fine Arts:

- Creative writing, poetry, music videos

Technology: -

- Green screen
- Example -

Business:

- Company stories – founder, employees, customers
- Product profiles- sugarcane, services
- Community service

Assessment:

- Match to subject area standards
- Use rubrics
- Include writing assessment
- Tech skills assessment?
- Team approach?

Rubrics

- Point of View
- Voice - Consistency
- Voice – Pacing
- Soundtrack - Emotion
- Images

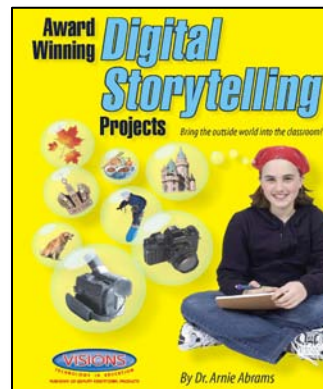
Things to Assess

- Overall purpose of the story
- Narrator's point of view
- A dramatic question (or questions)
- 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
- Digital Storytelling Rubrics

Sharing stories:

- CD's and DVDs
- PowerPoint
- On the web
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Teacher Tube
- festivals and contests

My Book:



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