

Make a Digital Story

Types of Digital Stories*

- Character stories
- What you do
- Places in your life
- Personal stories

Character Stories

Honor or pay a tribute to a person.

Useful questions to ask:

- ❖ What is your relationship to this person?
- ❖ How would you describe this person (physical appearance, character, etc.)?
- ❖ Is there an event that best captures their character?
- ❖ What about the person do you most enjoy?
- ❖ What lesson did the person give to you that you feel is most important?
- ❖ What about the person drives you crazy?
If you had something to say to the person, what would it be?



What you do

Stories about your job, volunteering/hobbies

Useful questions to ask:

- ❖ Describe your profession or ongoing interest?
- ❖ What past experiences prepared you for this job?
- ❖ Why did you pursue this interest?
- ❖ Who influenced or assisted you in shaping your career?
- ❖ How has your job affected your life as a whole?
- ❖ What has been the highlight of your vocation?



Places in your life

Reflect on a memorable place.

Useful questions to ask:

- ◆ How would you describe the place?
- ◆ With whom did you share this place?
- ◆ What general experiences do you relate to this place?
- ◆ Describe a defining experience in this place.
- ◆ What lessons about yourself do you draw from this place?
- ◆ How has this place changed?

Personal stories

Recovery stories

Overcoming a challenging such as a natural disaster, the loss of a loved one, or a life-changing event.

Love stories

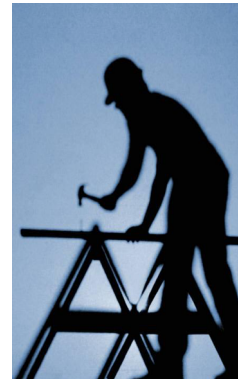
How you met your partner, the birth of a child, description of family & friends

Discovery stories

Learning or creating something new (painting, sculpture, dance etc.)

Seven steps to creating a digital story

1. *Owning your insights:* is the story yours?
 - ❖ Make sure what you're telling is your version of the story
 - ❖ Pick a story that shows who you are
 - ❖ Does the story show why you are who you are?
2. *Owning your emotions:* balance is important
 - ❖ If the story is too emotional we read it as dishonest
 - ❖ If the story doesn't have any emotion or conflict, we won't believe it
 - ❖ You should believe in what you are saying (authenticity)
3. *Finding the moment:* a turning point in your story
 - ❖ Show rather than tell your story
 - ❖ What do you see/hear/feel/taste/smell?
 - ❖ What was the moment when things changed?
4. *Seeing your story*
 - ❖ What images come to mind when you are telling your story?
 - ❖ Use photographs, scanned artifacts (letters), video clips
 - ❖ Can you use one image several different ways?
5. *Hearing your story:* choose and record sounds carefully
 - ❖ Speak like you are telling an unscripted story to a friend
 - ❖ Use natural sound in addition to narration
 - ❖ Are there copyright issues with the sound/music?
6. *Assembling your story:* editing and crafting your story
 - ❖ Identify necessary parts of your story
 - ❖ Don't be afraid to cut out repetitive/unnecessary sections



- ❖ How are the visual and audio layers working together?
7. *Sharing your story*: publishing and distributing
 - ❖ Who is the audience? Where will your story be viewed?
 - ❖ What is the purpose of your story?
 - ❖ What life will the story have after it's completed?

Narrative tips

1. *What's the message?*
 - ❖ Can you state the purpose in one or two sentences?
 - ❖ What's the essential point that you want viewers to take away?
2. *Who will tell your story?*
 - ❖ Who will be the narrator? You? A friend/family member?
 - ❖ Use short sound bites to provide emotional content
3. *Authenticity*
 - ❖ Tell stories from your life, be yourself
 - ❖ Don't be predictable, have fun
4. *Narrative movement*
 - ❖ Your story should have forward momentum, with a destination
 - ❖ Divide your story into rising action and reflection
5. *Rich, vivid details*
 - ❖ The more descriptive you can be, the better
 - ❖ Who/what/where/when/why/how
6. *Cut out the bad stuff*
 - ❖ Know when to abandon stories
 - ❖ Spend time brainstorming and researching—has this story been told before?



Interview tips

1. *Prepare for the interview*
 - ❖ Research your interviewee, location and questions thoroughly
2. *Let the interview subject be your guide*
 - ❖ Show compassion, ask open-ended questions
3. *Pay attention to the details*
 - ❖ Know your Qs, repeat their language, remember good sound bites
4. *Honor their story*
 - ❖ Respect their version, avoid correcting, show interest, don't interrupt

Resources and websites

Software

Free (or low cost) production software

VideoPad - video editing software (pc)	http://www.nchsoftware.com/
iMovie – video editing software (mac)	https://www.apple.com/ilife/imovie/
Audacity - audio editing software (mac/pc)	http://www.audacity.sourceforge.net/
Garageband – audio editing software (mac)	https://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/
Mpeg streamclip – video converter (mac/pc)	http://www.squared5.com/
VLC – video player, converter	http://www.videolan.org/
Handbrake – DVD ripper, converter (mac/pc)	http://handbrake.fr/
Any Video Converter – video converter (pc)	http://tiny.cc/wcmicw
Celtx – storyboard software (mac/pc)	https://www.celtx.com/
Google Docs – online word processing (mac/pc)	http://docs.google.com/
Google Drive – online media storage (mac/pc)	http://drive.google.com/
Dropbox – online media storage (mac/pc)	http://dropbox.com/
Gimp – layer-based image editing (mac/pc)	http://gimp.com/

Media resources to use in web video

You can reuse (fair use) and media from the following websites as long as your videos are not for-profit and you give the appropriate credit to the content creator.

Creative Commons – images/audio/video	http://creativecommons.org/
Flickr – image database (creative commons)	http://flickr.com/
Free Sound Project – natural sound & effects	http://www.freesound.org/
Free Music Archive – searchable music by genre	http://freemusicarchive.org/
CCmixter – music samples and mixes	http://ccmixter.org/
Dig CCMixer – search engine for ccmixer	http://dig.ccmixer.org/
Prelinger Archive – archived footage	http://archive.org/



Make a Digital Story

BRAINSTORMING WORKSHEET

Story Title_____

Your Name (by)_____

1. What kind of story do you want to tell? (check one)

☐Character story ☐Place in your life ☐What you do ☐Recovery story ☐Love story ☐Discovery

☐ Other_____

2. In one or two sentences, please write **the message** of your story:

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3. Who will **tell** your story? (Narrator? Interviews?)

4. In one or two sentences, please state **the moment things changed** in your story:

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5. List the **types of media** (images/video/audio) you will need to tell your story:

Audio	Visual



Make a Digital Story

Action	Reflection
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

6. Fill in the moments of **Action/Reflection** in your story:

7. Fill in a list of **details** in your story:

1. People involved	
2. Location / context	
3. Time of day / month / year	
4. Other details	

8. Where will you **publish/show** this digital story? (circle all that apply)

TV/DVD	Facebook	Twitter	Vimeo	Presentation/Movie
Website	Blog	Email	LinkedIn	Tumblr
Youtube	Ipad/tablet	Cellphone	Other:	Other: