INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL STORYTELLING

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AGENDA & LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this session, you’ll be able to:

- Define digital storytelling
- Write a script that uses the elements of good storytelling
- Create a storyboard based on a script
- Identify best practices for recording with your device
- Properly use Creative Commons works in your own creations

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GROUP BRAINSTORM

What is a digital story?

Menti.com

41 65 18
Group Advice

- Plot twist
- Character
- Comedy
- Theme
- Playing with emotions
- Taboo
What is Digital Storytelling?

“Digital Storytelling is the modern expression of the ancient art of storytelling. Digital stories derive their power by weaving images, music, narrative and voice together, thereby giving deep dimension and vivid color to characters, situations, experiences, and insights.”

- Leslie Rule, Digital Storytelling Association” (Digital Storytelling), retrieved 15:44, 23 May 2007 (MEST)
Digital storytelling example #1
INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTING
Elements of a script:

- Hook/Introduction
- Setting
- Character
- Plot/Tension
- Resolution/Conclusion
ACTIVITY

Working with a partner, read the script and identify elements that create

- Hook
- Character/Voice
- Setting
- Plot/Tension
- Conclusion

15 minutes
Hook

- mysterious
- Engages the audience right off the bat
• PRIVATE PROPERTY. CONTAMINATED, CAUTION: HISTORIC MINE WASTE, HEALTH HAZARD.
  ○ Short and choppy
  ○ Specific
  ○ Attention grabbing
Setting

- Hometown of the author
- Old mining community
- Untouched nature land vs. mining industry
- Detailed description
Setting

- Creates a world we can see and experience
- Use of detail and specifics
character/Voice

- Ambiguity
character/Voice

- Personal
- Activities she describes
- Language is accessible
- Repetition (specific voice and cadence)
Plot/Tension

- Going back in time
- Remembering how it was before mining
- Looking to the future
Plot/Tension

- Tension between health hazard and childhood experience
- Word play (mine)
Conclusion

- Human vs. nature interaction
- Looking to the future
- Sense of activism – initiate change
- Asking questions
Conclusion

- Questions
- Ambiguous/unfinished
What is missing from this script that you will need to think about?
Takeaways:

● Pull the audience in
● Specifics and use of detail
● Voice/character through language
● Identify main plot points and build tension
● Create a world
Digital storytelling example #2
Introduction to Storyboarding
2 logically sequenced
We can do amazing things!

For an entire country we can produce a map with the air quality forecast. Just like the weather forecast.

On an urban (city?) scale, we can point out the problem areas and make a better planning of the cities’ infrastructure.

A guy in a hallway doubts about whether to use an umbrella or a gasmask.

we see a complete city with road around it. Arrows appear as the text ‘point out’ is mentioned.

With this, we can do amazing things.

people could make plans accordingly.
We can do amazing things!

We zoom out and see a government person’s outline comes in front, as a metaphor to the weather on tv.

On an urban (city?) scale, we can point out the problem areas and make a better planning of the cities’ infrastructure.

A guy in a hallway doubts about whether to use an umbrella or a gasmask.

...we see a complete city with road around it. Arrows appear as the text “point out” is mentioned.
We can do amazing things!

2.3

We zoom out and see a government person's outline comes in front, as a metaphor to the weather on tv.

2.4.1

On an urban (city?) scale, we can point out the problem areas and make a better planning of the cities' infrastructure.

2.4.2

A guy in a hallway doubts about whether to use an umbrella or a gasmask.

2.5.1

we see a complete city with road around it. Arrows appear as the text 'point out' is mentioned.
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Resources to use in your digital story

http://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/Remixing

- Top Picks: Images
- Top Picks: Audio
ACTIVITY

1) Write a 50 word script about yourself (favourite place, fondest memory, etc.). Start each sentence in a new box.

2) In the Storyboard section on your template, sketch and/or describe the visuals that would accompany your voice-over.

3) Find at least 1 image using the resources from the Library Guide that you might use for your story:

http://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/Remixing
ACTIVITY

Share your script, storyboard and found images with a partner. Give each other feedback on
- Clarity of content
- Structure
- Engagement
- Overall look and style
BEST PRACTICES FOR RECORDING WITH YOUR DEVICE
1. **BE PREPARED**

- Is your phone fully charged?
  - Do you have an external battery?
- Do you have enough storage space?
- Check your camera settings
  - What quality are you filming in?
  - Resolution: try 720 if you have less memory
2. Stay steady

- Keep the camera as steady as possible
  - Use both hands
  - Explore stabilizing options
- Is there an image stabilization option on your phone?
- Be controlled in your movements
3. Good lighting and positioning

- Where is your subject standing?
  - What is behind them?
  - Where is the light?
  - Is it too dark? Too bright?
  - Are there strange shadows?
4. Framing

- Be intentional about where your subject is standing, how close you are to them, and what is in the shot.
- Avoid vertical videos
5. Think about the audio

- Are you close enough to pick up the voice/sounds?
- What else are you picking up?
- Test it out
6. To zoom or not to zoom

- Zoom distorts quality
- Think about other options or creative ways to solve your problem
Get assistance at the Library Media Studio

Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 4:00

Filming Studio:
- Book appointments for filming live-action videos
- 75 minutes, 1 appointment per week

Editing Suite:
- Book appointments for help using WeVideo
- 1 hour, up to 3 per week

Sound Booth
- A quiet place to record your voice over
- 75 minutes, 1 appointment per week
THANKS!

bit.ly/MediaStudioW19

Questions? Email mediastudio.lib@uoguelph.ca