

Exploiting Digital Storytelling in class

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What is Digital Storytelling?

INTRODUCTION

This presentation explores how digital storytelling merges traditional narrative techniques with modern technology to enhance learning experiences. By integrating voice, images, music, and multimedia tools, it transforms students into active creators of content. The approach fosters creativity, critical thinking, digital literacy, and emotional engagement, making it a powerful tool for meaningful and motivating classroom practice.

What is Storytelling?

Storytelling is the art of using voice, language, movement, and facial expressions to convey a real or imaginary event. It aims to spark thoughts, emotions, and mental imagery in the minds of the audience. The process is interactive and dynamic—storytellers not only narrate but also observe and adapt to the audience’s responses in real time. This interaction transforms storytelling into a shared creative experience.. Storytelling shifts focus from logical persuasion to enthusiastic, meaningful action. Listeners become engaged participants, not passive recipients. The strong emotional and imaginative elements foster deep motivation and personal involvement.

Digital storytelling blends traditional oral narrative techniques with digital media tools. It combines text, visuals, music, narration, and sound effects to create immersive narratives. This format is especially effective in educational settings, allowing students to express ideas, emotions, and reflections through modern technology.

Classroom Applications

Digital storytelling enhances student learning by encouraging:

- **Imagination and creativity**
- **Critical and analytical thinking**
- **Oral and written communication skills**
- **Digital and media literacy**
- **Collaborative teamwork and personal expression**

Through this process, students shift from passive consumers to active content creators, contributing their voices and perspectives.

Steps in Creating a Digital Story

1. **Scriptwriting** – Develop a clear and engaging narrative.
2. **Storyboard Creation** – Plan the visual representation of each scene.
3. **Media Collection** – Gather or create images, music, and sound effects.
4. **Digital Composition** – Use digital tools to assemble the story.
5. **Sharing** – Present the final product to peers or the wider community.

Digital Tools to Use

- **Photopea** – Free online graphic editor
- **Adobe Photoshop CS2** – Advanced photo editing
- **Audacity** – Audio recording and editing
- **Photo Story** – Simple video creation tool

7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

1. **Point of View** – The story’s core message and the author’s stance
 2. **Dramatic Question** – A compelling question that drives the narrative
 3. **Emotional Content** – Meaningful themes that resonate with the audience
 4. **Voice** – Personal narration brings the story to life
 5. **Soundtrack** – Music and sounds enhance the mood and impact
 6. **Economy** – Only essential elements are included
 7. **Pacing** – The rhythm and flow of the story
- ### Story vs. Plot

- The **story** outlines what happens: characters, setting, conflicts, and resolution.
- The **plot** is how these elements are presented on screen, often enriched with digital effects, narration, and music.

• Conclusion

- Incorporating digital storytelling into education enriches teaching practices and empowers students to express themselves creatively and authentically.

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