

# SERP 900 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Summer 2011 - 2014 Verano en Mexico

Instructor: Todd Fletcher

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

TOPIC: DIGITAL STORYTELLING

### RESEARCH QUESTION(S):

1. What effect will Digital Storytelling with VoiceThread have on the learning experience of students in a study abroad setting?
2. What impact will a Digital Storytelling VoiceThread assignment have on the service-learning project experience of students engaged in a study abroad program?

### RATIONALE FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH

To explore the relatively new medium of Digital Storytelling as a vehicle for enhanced learning and reflection for students engaged in a study abroad program.

### RESEARCH DESIGN:

A pilot study of qualitative design.

### RESEARCH METHODS:

Records Review (of completed assignments/products and grades from SERP 404/504)

Student Surveys

Student Interviews

### POSSIBLE SURVEY/INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Did you enjoy the Digital Storytelling assignment you completed during your Verano en Mexico studies? Why or Why not?
2. What did you view as benefits to completing the Digital Storytelling experience, in comparison to more traditional learning experiences such as producing a report or paper?
3. What did you view as challenges or obstacles to completing a Digital Storytelling assignment?
4. Did the Digital Storytelling assignment have a positive impact on your learning experience in this course? Why or why not?
5. Did the Digital Storytelling experience foster a greater degree of reflection about your experience than more traditional assignment formats such as writing a report?
6. How did your ability to share or present your learning experience with others using the Digital Storytelling vehicle compare to other methods of sharing such as an oral report or power point presentation?

7. Was the tool used to create the Digital Story intuitive to use? Was the tool effective in allowing you to tell your story? Did the tool allow for creativity? Did the tool assist in enriching your writing skills, presentation skills, production skills, and language skills? Would you recommend using this tool as a reflection tool or discussion tool in other classes?
8. Did you have comments on your Digital Story? If so, what was your response? Did you like others making comments on your Digital Story?

#### PROCEDURE:

Explain: Digital Storytelling assignment and teach students how to accomplish this goal using voice thread.

1. Share with students the rubric that will be used for grading their assignments.
2. Obtain informed consent from students to participate in the following aspects of the study:
  - a. Observations by researchers on student use of Digital Storytelling
  - b. Student surveys on their experiences with Digital Storytelling.
  - c. Student interviews on their experiences with Digital Storytelling.

*Be sure that students understand that their participation in the study is voluntary and that participation will not affect their course grade.*

3. Principal investigator will conduct informal observation and collect anecdotal data on students' progress towards completing Digital Storytelling assignments.
4. Conduct student surveys using a Likert scale for soliciting student opinions about the advantages or disadvantages of the Digital Storytelling process.
5. Conduct semi-structured open-ended interviews of students' experiences with the Digital Storytelling process.
6. Use member checks to ensure accuracy of interview transcriptions.
7. Code and analyze data.

#### DATA ANALYSIS:

Coding of observations, surveys and interview data into naturally occurring themes for analysis and interpretation.

#### POTENTIAL PRODUCTS/OUTCOMES:

Presentation or publication of study results to add to the body of knowledge on the relatively new intervention of Digital Storytelling as vehicle for reflection and learning.