
STUDENT DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT OVERVIEW

WHAT IS A DIGITAL STORY?

Digital storytelling started at the Center for Digital Storytelling (<http://www.storycenter.org>) in Berkley, California. Digital storytelling is a way to tell a personal story. It can be used for a variety of reasons including self-discovery, reflection, community building, education, program documentation, advocacy or entertainment.

WHAT IS VOICETHREAD?

VoiceThread is a FREE Internet application that allows people to post media for community feedback. It is like a PowerPoint presentation with the addition of a discussion board. Users can upload pictures, videos or other documents to the application to create a slide show. A voice recording or typed text can be added to the each slide. Once the VoiceThread presentation is published others can add remarks by means of a microphone, webcam, keyboard or telephone. It is Flash-based and has apps for mobile devices. (<http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7050.pdf>)

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

This project is a reflective assessment assignment to help you demonstrate of what you have learned on your study abroad experience. This is not a slide show of your trip, but rather a deeper reflection about your total experience. One way to look at this project is to ponder, “If an employer were to ask me what I learned on my study abroad experience, what story would I tell him or her?”

HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE EVALUATED?

Your digital story should have the following six elements, which are recommended by the Center for Digital Storytelling:

- 1) *Dramatic Questions* (20 points) – Capture your audience’s attention at the beginning of the story by posing a couple of reflective questions related to course content about your chosen community organization. Answer these questions by the end of your story
- 2) *A Point (of View)* (20 points) – Stories are not just a recitation of mere facts. You need to set forth an opinion about your chosen community organization and support your thoughts using independent research, as well as personal reflection about and information gleaned from your volunteer experience.
- 3) *Emotional Content* (15 points) – Hold your audience’s attention by evoking their emotions as you narrate your story.
- 4) *Gift of Voice* (15 points) – Add a personal touch to your digital story by using the spoken word.
- 5) *Power of Music* (15 points) – Music sets the tone for the story. It can convey the time and emotional setting.
- 6) *Pacing* (15 points) – Keep your audience engaged with fast-moving yet informative narration.

How should you create a digital story?

You will be using a Web 2.0 tool called Voice Thread (www.voicethread.com). This is a free tool that is easy to use and allows your audience to comment on you're the digital story. However, there is some prep work to do before you start creating a digital narrative in Voice Thread:

Task	Description	Resources
1 - Create your Voice Thread Account.	Go to Voice Thread and create a free account. Each team should only have one account. You will learn more about using Voice Thread to produce your digital narrative during our scheduled in-class tutorial on February 3 rd , 2012.	http://www.voicethread.com
2 - Write a script.	Draft a written outline of your story. This is your script. It should introduce and answer the reflective questions that you chose to ask about your chosen community organization.	Before writing your script, it is a good idea to watch a few examples of digital stories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Center for Digital Storytelling - http://www.storycenter.org/stories/ Creative Narrations - http://www.creativenarrations.net/site/storybook/index.html Ohio State University - http://digitalstory.osu.edu/stories/community/ University of Houston- http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/index.html A middle school teachers journey - http://voicethread.com/?#q+my+journey.b50574.i264754
3 - Collect images and artifacts to complement your script.	Photos, letters, maps, and souvenir items from your volunteer work are all things that you can use to personalize your story. If you decide to make a video, keep it short and simple. You can also use Internet images but make sure that they are royalty free. It is also important that you have rights to/own the music that you plan to use.	Here are some Internet sites for photos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock.xchng - http://www.sxc.hu FreeFoto – http://www.freefoto.com Here are two Internet sites for royalty free music: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.freeplaymusic.com/ http://www.jamendo.com/en/
4 - Create a storyboard from your script, images and music.	A storyboard is a great way to organize your words and images. This is where you pull it all together before you go to production. In a Word document/table, chunk out your story into small sections and match these to the images and artifacts that you have collected.	