

Proposal Title:

Digital Storytelling as an Assessment Practice

Areas of Study:

1. **Digital Literacy** is the ability to use, filter and validate technology tools and the Internet strategically to find and evaluate information, collaborate with others, produce and share original content and to achieve academic, professional and personal goals.
2. **Assessment Practices** are techniques used by students to deepen, integrate and demonstrate their learning outcomes.
3. **Traditional Storytelling Techniques** are a means of effectively sharing knowledge, interpreting experiences, or passing on wisdom to others.
4. **Digital Storytelling** as a means for expanding traditional storytelling through the inclusion of a variety of modalities.

Rationale:

The purpose behind this comprehensive exam is to establish a context and depth of knowledge in the area of digital literacy, assessment practices and storytelling techniques. As part of the comprehensive exam, I propose to conduct a literature review exploring the research that has been conducted in the following areas:

1. Digital storytelling for both academic settings and personal growth.
2. Digital storytelling as an assessment practice.
3. Current assessment practices in faculty led study abroad programs.
4. Use of technology for both digital storytelling and assessment practices.
5. Traditional storytelling techniques used for assessment purposes.

After conducting the literature review, I will explore the relationships, connections and intersections between the various areas of research and begin to develop a conceptual model of the current use of digital storytelling as an assessment tool.

Included in this process will be an exploration of the theoretical framework through which I will be weaving my thoughts and perspective on the literature and research.

The theories I will include are:

1. Activity Theory
2. New Literacies Theory
3. Multimodality Theory

This comprehensive exam along and the oral exam will be the prelude to my dissertation proposal on the use of digital storytelling as an assessment practice in faculty led study abroad programs.

In preparing for my comprehensive exams I will begin by reviewing the courses from both my Master's in Educational Technology program and my PhD work in Language, Reading and Culture. I will create an e-Portfolio of my coursework, including the learning outcomes from each course and provide a sample of my work to support the learning that took place during the course.

Tentative Reference List to be used in the Oral Exams:

Books

Alexander, B. (2011). *The new digital storytelling: Creating narratives with new media*. Santa Barbara, Calif: Praeger.

Gee, J. P. (2013). *The anti-education era: creating smarter students through digital learning*. Palgrave Macmillian.

Kress, G. R. (2010). *Multimodality: A social semiotic approach to contemporary communication*. London: Routledge.

Kress, G. R. (2003). *Literacy in the New Media Age*. London: Rotledge.

McDrury, J., & Alterio, M. (2003). *Learning through storytelling in higher education: Using reflection & experience to improve learning*. London: Kogan Page.

McEwan, H., & Egan, K. (1995). *Narrative in teaching, learning, and research*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Moll, L. C. (2014) *L.S. Vygotsky and Education*. New York: Routledge

Ohler, J. (2008). *Digital storytelling in the classroom: New media pathways to literacy, learning, and creativity*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Sheridan-Rabideau, M. P., & Rowsell, J. (2010). *Design literacies: Learning and innovation in the digital age*. London: Routledge.

Vande, B. M., Paige, R. M., & Lou, K. H. (2012). *Student learning abroad: What our students are learning, what they're not, and what we can do about it*. Sterling, Virginia: Stylus Publishing, LLC.

Articles

Alexander, B., & Levine, A. (November 01, 2008). Web 2.0 Storytelling: Emergence of a New Genre. *Educause Review*, 43, 6.)

Brown, J. S. (March 01, 2000). Growing Up: Digital: How the Web Changes Work, Education, and the Ways People Learn. *Change: the Magazine of Higher Learning*, 32, 2, 11-20.

Dreon, O., Kerper, R. M., & Landis, J. (May 01, 2011). Digital Storytelling: A Tool for Teaching and Learning in the YouTube Generation. *Middle School Journal*, 42, 5, 4-9.

Hull, G. A., & Katz, M.-L. (August 01, 2006). Crafting an Agentive Self: Case Studies of Digital Storytelling. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 41, 1, 43-81.

Hull, G. A., & Nelson, M. E. (April 01, 2005). Locating the Semiotic Power of Multimodality. *Written Communication*, 22, 2, 224-261.

Kearney, M. (June 01, 2011). A learning design for student-generated digital storytelling. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 36, 2, 169-188.

Lowenthal, P. R., & Dunlap, J. C. (January 01, 2010). From pixel on a screen to real person in your students' lives: Establishing social presence using digital storytelling. *Internet and Higher Education*, 13, 70-72.

O'Brien, D., & Scharber, C. (September 01, 2008). Digital literacies go to school: Potholes and possibilities. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 52, 1, 66-68.

Robin, B. R. (July 01, 2008). Digital Storytelling: A Powerful Technology Tool for the 21st Century Classroom. *Theory into Practice*, 47, 3, 220-228.

Sadik, A. (January 01, 2008). Digital storytelling: a meaningful technology-integrated approach for engaged student learning. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 56, 4, 487-506.