Digital Storytelling

Day 1
Introductions

Name

Affiliation

What is the most memorable story you have heard in the last couple of days and why?
What is a story?

"The Universe is made up of stories, not atoms"

– Muriel Rukeyser, 20th Century American Poet

Story: "A fact, wrapped in an emotion that compels us to take an action that transforms our world."

– Robert Dickman
Stories

Story: a narrative designed to interest, amuse, or instruct the hearer or reader. Stories tell others about:

• Memorials About Those Who Have Died
• Significant Relationships
• Beginnings That Explain Who We Are
• Challenges Overcome
• Objects That Have Meaning to Us
• Hurt and Healing
• Places of Importance
• Adventures
Why Storytelling?

“Numbers numb, jargon jars, and nobody ever marched onto Washington because of a pie chart.”

– Andy Goodman

Storytelling lets us invite people to be a part of something.

Storytelling lets us reflect on our pasts and build communities around shared thoughts and ideas.
Parts of a Story

**Beginning or First Act:** introduce location, characters, and questions/conflicts/challenges to be addressed

**Inciting event**

**Middle or Second Act:** the main course of events detailing what happened

**Climax**

**End or Third Act:** the conclusion revealing how it turned out and the meaning
Storytelling Process

Help people locate themselves in your story

Consider the audience
- who are they really
- why would they relate
- what gift can you offer

Adjust the pace, emotion and your tone of voice to fit your intended audience
Four steps to good storytelling

Good stories are personal reflections that captivate the audience.

1. Own your insights
2. Own your emotions
3. Find the moment
4. Build your story around the moment
Activity: Developing Your Story Idea

Take 15 minutes to create a short draft of a story that you can share with your colleagues back home telling of a memorable moment of your time here. The goal is to create a 2 minute story or less.

Story should build towards the key moment

- Introduction of location, characters, and questions/conflicts/challenge
- Main course of events
- Conclusion revealing what happened and its meaning
The Story Circle

Story circles are a place where you can share your story with others. In a real sense, they are an informal peer review.

- Feedback on the clarity and effectiveness of their story
- Others in the circle connect the story to their own experiences and provide additional insights into the subject
- The members of the story circle have new opportunities to reflect on their pasts, reexamine their histories and place themselves in history.
Activity: The Story Circle

Break into groups of 3; you will have about 20 minutes to share each of your stories and to get feedback from others in the circle.

• What do you see as the moment in the story?
• How well did the beginning and middle setup the moment?
• What was the point of the story?
• What might be done to help highlight the moment?
• What will you take away from this story?
How could you use storytelling and the story circle in your course?
Homework for Tuesday

• Touch up your story based on the feedback you received from the story circle.
Digital Storytelling

Day 2
How did you access your most memorable story you shared with us during the Introduction?
Digital Storytelling

Digital storytelling allows the story to be retold even while the storyteller is sleeping.

Digital storytelling allows the storyteller to use additional media to better bring home the moment.
Additional Resources

A few of the many helpful resources on digital storytelling include:

- http://nationaldayoflistening.org/
- http://dsi.kqed.org/index.php/workshops/about/C66/
- http://www.storycenter.org/
- http://www.prairienet.org/op/stories/
Four steps to digital storytelling

1. see your story
   - Explicit images convey important details
   - Implicit images convey representational meaning

2. hear your story
   - Voice -- conveys the essence and character of the story.
   - Music -- conveys tone, character, and meaning
   - Ambient Sound -- conveys tone and sense of place

3. assemble your story

4. share your story
Storytelling: Idea to Production

My Story Idea

Rough Draft → Story Circle → Script

Story Development

Digital Story Production and Distribution

- MP3 or Podcast
- Blog
- Video

illinois.edu
Sharing Your Story

Where will your audience go to find your story?

- Traditional print media
- Websites, blogs, other online print sites
- Traditional monitors vs. small format displays
- Sharing audio recordings via flash drive, CD, etc.
- Podcast sites such as iTunes
- Video sites such as YouTube or Blip.TV

You can spend 2-3 hours of development for each minute of multimedia story production. Don't waste time by creating a type of production that your audience won't access!
Recording Your Story

Audacity is a free software, cross-platform digital audio editor and recording application. While free, the software is feature rich and is capable of simple or more complex audio recordings.

Audacity allows for the creation of multiple tracks to allow for voice, background music, and ambient sounds to be overlayed.

Think about your audience when recording a story and your tone of voice. Should this story be recorded orally? Would this story be more effective written down?
A Note About Microphones

Microphones change sound waves into electrical waves so that input can be digitized.

Different microphones have different sound collection patterns:
- Unidirectional
- Omnidirectional

For more on equipment, see:
and
http://pcc.metroeastdigital.org/?page_id=18
StartRecording a New Track

Pause/Resume Recording Current Track

Stop Recording For *This* Track
Activity: Recording Your Story

Take 15-20 minutes to record one of the stories told in your Story Circle using Audacity. You might have each member of the Story Circle tell a portion of the story or have one person interview the others as a way to tell the story.

Save your audacity project file periodically.
Producing an Audio Story

Spicing up a voice recording:

• Editing out silence, vocalized pauses (ummm, ahhhh)
• Focusing story by editing out side thoughts
• Adding additional voices, interview questions
• Adding background sounds
• Adding background music
Choosing Sounds to Enhance a Story

What sounds/music come to mind when you think about the various parts of your story?

What sounds/music might help your audience grasp your story more effectively and efficiently?

When making stories available publicly, it’s important to only include media you’ve produced or that has been licensed for use in your productions.

The Creative Commons copyright licenses were created to provide a range of copyright permissions for individuals and organizations to grant permissions for their creative works.
The Creative Commons License

There are a number of different copyright licenses that all fall under the Creative Commons, including:

- **CC Attribution** – can use creative works in whole or in part, can remix, etc. as long as provide attribution
- **CC Attribution NoDerivs** – can only use whole works and only with attribution
- **CC Attribution ShareAlike** – Same as CC Attribution but must also release under CC licensing
- **CC Attribution NonCommercial** – Same as CC Attribution but only for non-commercial uses
Finding Content for Reuse

• http://www.prairienet.org/op/stories/technology/finding-content-for-reuse/
Digital Storytelling

Day 3
Editing Your Recording

**Selection Tool**: Used to select a certain portion of area of a recording track so that you can copy, cut, silence, add effects, or otherwise edit that portion.

**Envelope Tool**: Used to adjust the volume on portions of a recording.

**Time Shift Tool**: Use to drag a segment of your recording.
Adding Effects to Your Recording

Audacity has a number of different effects that can be applied to your recordings. Commonly used effects that you can apply to a portion of selected text include:

- **Amplify** - use this effect to increase or decrease the volume
- **Equalization** - provides a mechanism to increase or decrease volume at specific frequencies (e.g., high notes)
- **Fade in/Fade out** - slowly increases or decreases the volume; useful to transition between different sounds
- **Noise removal** - can help eliminate constant background sounds such as fans and hums

These Effects can be added by clicking on the "Effect" option on the menu bar
Audacity Tracks

Different tracks can be used for different audio events, for instance:

- Recorded story
- Interviewer questions
- Background music
- Ambient sounds

How To Add a New Track:
To open a new track click Tracks > Add New > Audio Track
Adding Background Music and Sound

How to add music or ambient sounds:
File > Import > Audio
Activity: Editing Your Recordings

Open the recordings stored on your flash drives. Choose "Save As" and save your project with a new name that indicates this is an edited version.

Take some time to clean up your recording to remove dead time, ahhs, umms, etc.

If your recording occurred across multiple tracks, bring them together into one track.

Add interview questions, background music, effects as desired.
Saving and Exporting Your Audio Production

When you save your recording in Audacity, the recording is saved as an Audacity Project (.aup) file. This preserves the different tracks and effects as separate entities.

To share your recording, you will want to "Export" the project as an MP3 file. This merges the various tracks into a single track that can be replayed using MP3 players.

MP3 files can also be included as part of web pages and blogs:
1. Go to http://blogname.wordpress.com/wp-admin
2. Click on posts from the left menu and edit your story from earlier.
3. Click on the music icon (🎵) to get to the prompts to let you add your MP3 recording to your blog post.
How can audio/podcasting be used in your course?
Blogging

Blogs are online websites developed to allow individuals to publish their journals online.

Blogging is a great way to put your story and media online for others to read. Stories can be written in a series of blogs or an entire short story can be told in a single blog to share with other community members.
Activity: Story Blogging

We would like to encourage you to take a moment to create a personal blog space using Wordpress to make it easier to follow the class examples. If you are already blogging, please feel free to use the space you already have.

1. Go to http://wordpress.com/ and click on “Get Started”
2. Fill out the form and click on “Sign Up”
3. Click on “Visit your dashboard” *(NOTE: your Dashboard URL ends in /wp-admin. This is the easiest way to create new posts later.)*
4. Click on “New Post” to create a new Post
1: enter title
2: enter text and media
3: choose categories
4: set visibility and publish
How can storytelling and story blogging be used in your course?
What About Video???

- How many of you have extensively documented the stories of your family?
- How much of that footage has ever been seen?
- Quality productions that go beyond basic archiving to actually tell stories we want to watch
  - Require specialized skills
  - Extensive time (hours/minute)
  - Right resources
- If you really want to learn this, see you next year at FSI
Sharing Your Story Revisited

When might each of the following be the best way to share a story:

• Oral sharing?
• Traditional print media?
• Story blog?
• Story book?
• Audio recording / podcast?
• Video recording?

*Digital Literacy*
Using Digital Storytelling Across the Curriculum

• How might digital storytelling be used in disciplines other than English?
Preparing to Share Lessons

• Tomorrow morning our group has 8 minutes to share what we’ve done
• What key lessons would each of you like to share with everyone else?