Presenting Ideas through Digital Storytelling in the English Language Classroom
Lobby poll recap

1. Important components of a multimedia product
2. Student access to digital tools
Webinar objectives

1. Explore the value of using digital storytelling in the English classroom
2. Identify the key elements and steps of creating an effective story
3. Choose a “next step” you can take to explore using digital storytelling in your classroom
You should know...

- This webinar is not a technology “how-to” guide
- Teachers will need to decide how they will assess students who make digital stories
- There are many challenges involved with using digital storytelling in the classroom
Digital Storytelling

Visual
Audio
Story
More on digital stories

What?
- Personal narrative
- Historical documentary
- Content area tutorial

Who?
- Teacher-made
- Student-made

How long?
- Short (2-5 minutes)
A digital story about “Little Joe”

- What **visual elements** do you notice in this story?
- What **audio elements** do you notice in this story?
- What **kind** of digital story is this?
- Who is the **author** of this digital story?
- **How long** is this story?
Overview

1. Why should I use storytelling in the English language classroom?
2. How do I present an effective story?
3. How do I use digital storytelling in my classroom?
Guiding Question

How can I use digital storytelling in my classroom?
1. Why should I use storytelling in the English language classroom?

The Power of Storytelling
Stories have the power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds. Want to make a point or raise an issue? Tell a story.

Janet Litherland, Author
The brains “sync up”

Princeton Study (2010)
**Engage**

**Teachers**
need to be able to engage their students…
- to motivate them to achieve
- to remove language learning barriers
- to prepare them for success

**Students**
need to be able to engage potential audiences…
- to achieve academic success
- to develop their language skills
- to pursue future careers
Projects…

- provide an opportunity to practice language in context
- allow students to use speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills
- give students a meaningful and interesting task to accomplish
- help students get repeated practice to improve their English
Other skills

- Multiple literacies
- 21st century skills
2. How do I present an effective story?

The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

Point of view

Dramatic question

Emotional content

Voice

Soundtrack

Economy

Pacing
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

Point of view
What is the *purpose*?
What is the perspective of the *author*?
Who is the *audience*?
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

Dramatic question

What is the *key question* that holds the viewer’s *attention* until the end of the story?
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

How do you want your audience to **feel** while viewing and listening to your story?

**Emotional content**
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

Voice

How are you *personalizing* your story to help your audience understand the story’s content?
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

**Soundtrack**

What *background music* will you select to help your audience *connect* to the content of your story?
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

**KISS**

Are you **Keeping It Short and Simple**?

Are you using “just enough” media and words to tell your story?

**Economy**
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

Pacing

What is the rhythm of your story?
Is it fast or slow?
Are there dramatic pauses?
The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

- Point of view
- Dramatic question
- Emotional content
- Voice
- Soundtrack
- Economy
- Pacing
Activity

Remember the student’s digital story from our pre-webinar activities? Let’s watch it again and identify the elements.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 Elements</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point of view</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacing</td>
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</table>
1. Point of view

A girl from Thailand

Explore how stereotypes have affected her

People she might meet

The Rhetorical Triangle
2. Dramatic question

What is the key question that holds the viewer’s attention until the end of the story?

How is she going to live with her big feet?
3. Emotional content

How do you want your audience to feel while viewing and listening to your story?

She wants us to sympathize with her.
4. The gift of your voice

How are you personalizing your story to help your audience understand the story’s content?

Embarrassment

Acceptance
5. Soundtrack

What *background music* will you select to help your audience *connect* to the content of your story?

- **Pauses**
- Quirky, playful music
6. Economy

Are you Keeping It Short and Simple?
Are you using “just enough” media and words to tell your story?

K.I.S.S.

Simple narration
Many pictures
Various music changes
7. Pacing

What is the rhythm of your story?
Is it fast or slow?
Are there dramatic pauses?

Fast-paced like the life of a teenage student

Dramatic pauses and changes in rhythm to match the mood
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<tr>
<td>Dramatic question</td>
<td>How will she solve the many challenges of living with big feet?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional connection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>Her personal voice is evident throughout the story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soundtrack</td>
<td>There is music appropriate to the mood of the story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>The pacing matches the mood and changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacing</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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3.

How do I use digital storytelling in my classroom?

A 5-Step Process
Notes from Brenner article

- Timeline for getting started and carrying out a semester project with your students
- Making a digital story yourself
- Making rubrics and assessing students
- Dealing with challenges that arise
- View examples of digital stories
- Try making a digital story yourself

View examples here:
- Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling
- UMBC Digital Stories Gallery
Digital story viewing guide

What kind of story is it?
What visuals does it have?
What audio does it include?

Who is the author?

How long is the story?
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The Digital Storytelling Process

1) Idea and Script
2) Digital resources
3) Storyboard
4) Import/record
5) Share
An idea

Give them a task

Get some ideas for educational tasks here: Creative Educator
Personal Narrative
Specific tasks

Develop a story to...

- advertise an event and get people to attend it.
- showcase a cause and get people to support it.
- market a product and get people to buy it.
The writing process – the script

- Prewriting
- Writing
- Revision
- Editing
- Publishing
Pre-writing – the rhetorical triangle

Make it small, focused, and personal
Pre-writing - the story arc
Revisions – story circles

- Small group with specified amount of time taking turns
- Repeat the process at various stages of the process
- Share prewriting or writing with group
- Group members give feedback to the script sharer

- Time
- Writing
- Repetition
- Feedback
Collecting digital resources

- Find photographs and scan them into your computer
- Record your own videos and take your own pictures
- Search for photos online following Creative Commons guidelines
- Organize your videos and pictures into folders for easy access later
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storyboard</th>
<th>Narration</th>
<th>Music/Sound effects</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><img src="image1" alt="Icon" /></td>
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Team B PSA

7+6 seconds

Shot 1: Narrator introducing
Music: 4+5 secs

Shot 2: Piece of car flying in
Narrator speaking overlap
SFX: 5+6 secs

Shot 3: Advisor + Student with car
Music:

Shot 4: Student standing beside car
Music:

Shot 5: Narrator describing
SFX: Info.

Shot 6:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>SFX: V/O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Roseville Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Trouble in the water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Boy is drowned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Friends save boy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>End quote and credits</td>
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**Music:** Mellow Piano
Import, record, and finalize

Apps for recording audio

Software for recording audio

Software for creating digital story videos
Share your story and teach others to make their own stories
Review

Why should I use storytelling in the English language classroom?

How do I present an effective story?

How do I use digital storytelling in my classroom?
Benefits for students

- Increases student motivation
- Extends language activities outside of class
- Provides students with opportunities to collaborate and problem solve
- Promotes critical thinking
- Allows for student language development and growth
Challenges

- Amount of time it takes to create digital stories
- Limited technological resources
- Lack of technical knowledge about the process
- Difficulties in coaching students through the process
- Assessing student outcomes
Guiding Question

How can I use digital storytelling in my classroom?
Thank you!
Any questions?
Resources
- Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling
- UMBC Digital Stories Gallery
- Center for Digital Storytelling

Readings
- Morra, Samantha. 8 Steps to Great Digital Storytelling. https://samanthamorra.com/2013/06/05/edudemic-article-on-digital-storytelling/
Credits


Videos

- Schein, Johanna. Cycling in Baltimore: Little Joe’s Sporting Good Store. https://goo.gl/dhV8qM

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
- Photographs by Unsplash