



**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

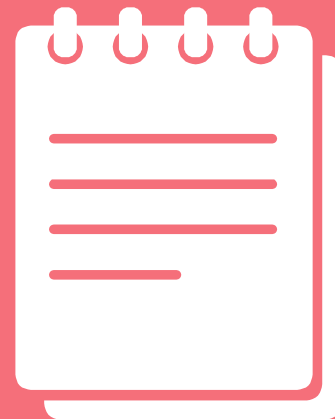
Digital Storytelling



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?

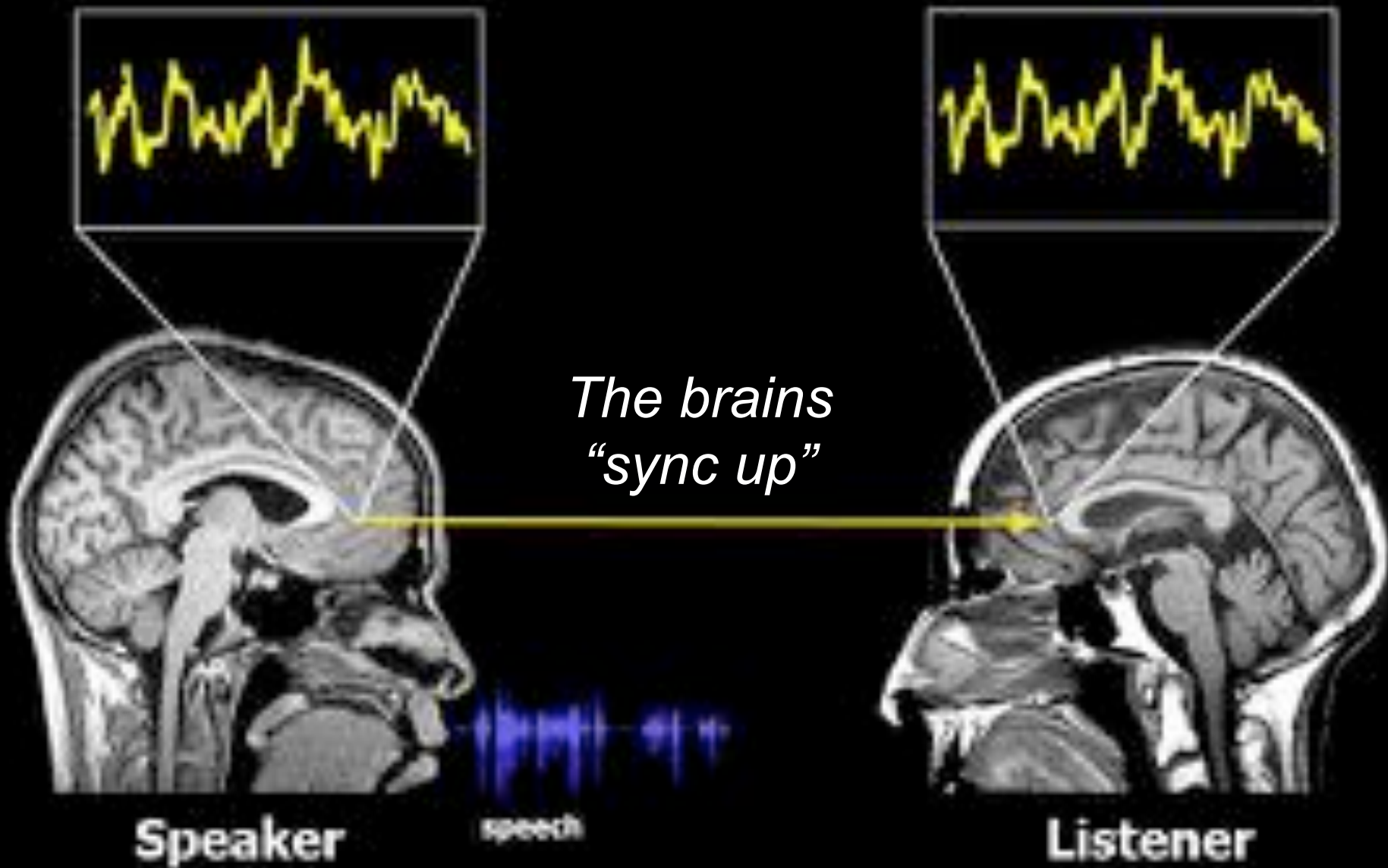


The Power of Storytelling



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



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

Language

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

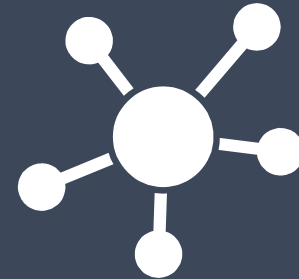
Point of view



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

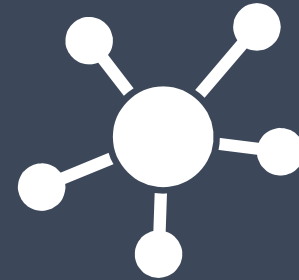


What is the *key question* that holds the viewer's *attention* until the end of the story?

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

What is the rhythm of your story?

Is it fast or slow?

Are there dramatic pauses?

Pacing



The 7 Elements of Digital Storytelling

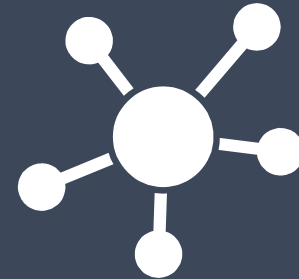
Point of view



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.

7 Elements

Notes

Point of view

Dramatic question

Emotional content

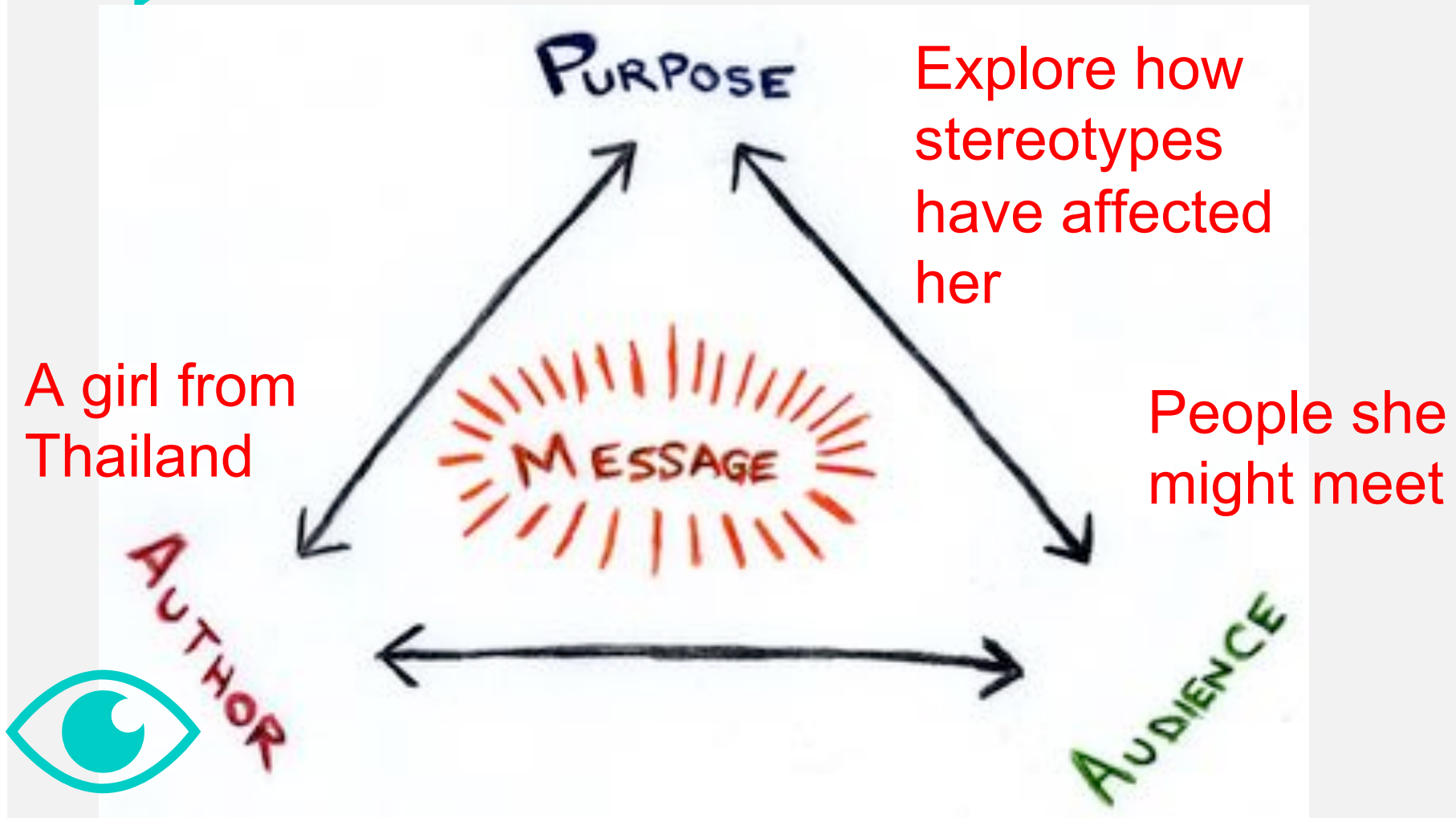
Voice

Soundtrack

Economy

Pacing

1. Point of view



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 ?



Beginning

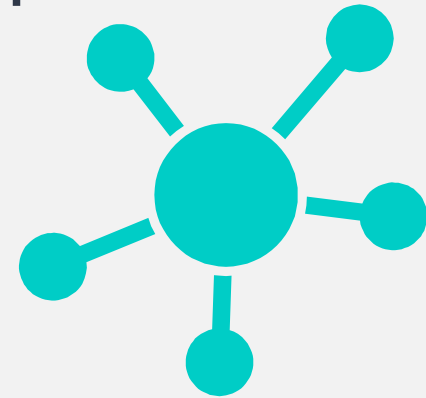
Middle

End



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

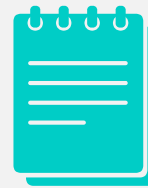
6. Economy

Are you **K**eeping **I**t **S**hort and **S**imple?

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



7 Elements

Notes

Point of view

Dramatic question

How will she solve the many challenges of living with big feet?

Emotional connection

Voice

Her personal voice is evident throughout the story.

Soundtrack

There is music appropriate to the mood of the story.

Economy

Pacing

The pacing matches the mood and changes.

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

Getting started...

- 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?

7 Elements	Notes
Point of view	
Dramatic question	
Emotional connection	
Voice	
Soundtrack	
Economy	
Pacing	

The Digital Storytelling Process

1) Idea and Script

2) Digital resources

3) Story-board

4) Import/record

5) Share

An idea

Give them a task

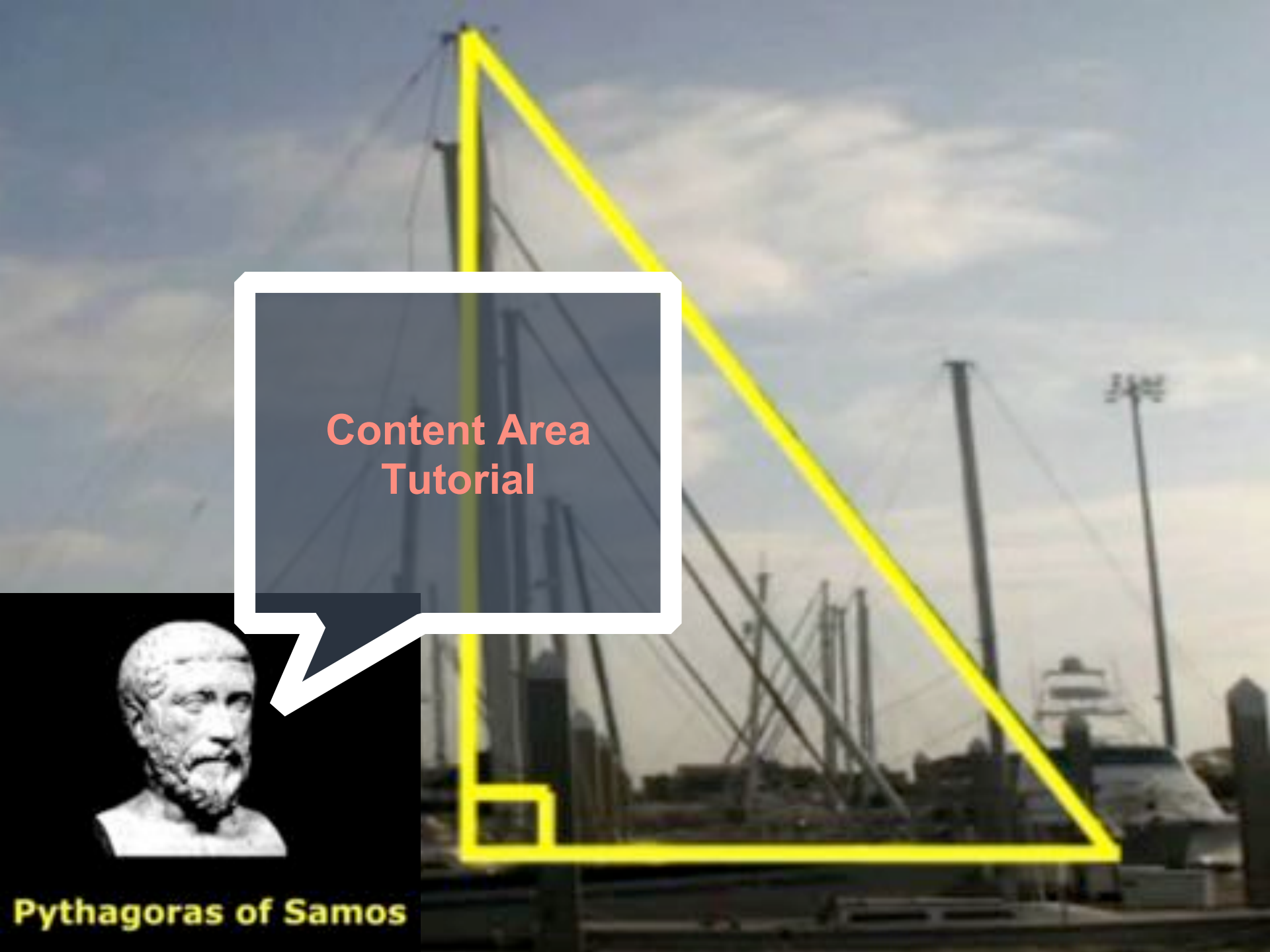
Get some ideas for educational tasks
here: [Creative Educator](#)



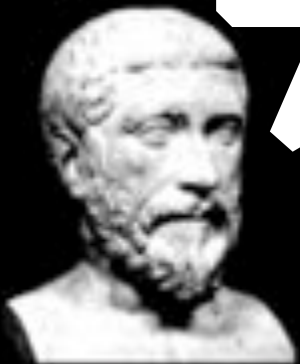
Personal Narrative

**Historical
Documentary**





**Content Area
Tutorial**



Pythagoras of Samos

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.

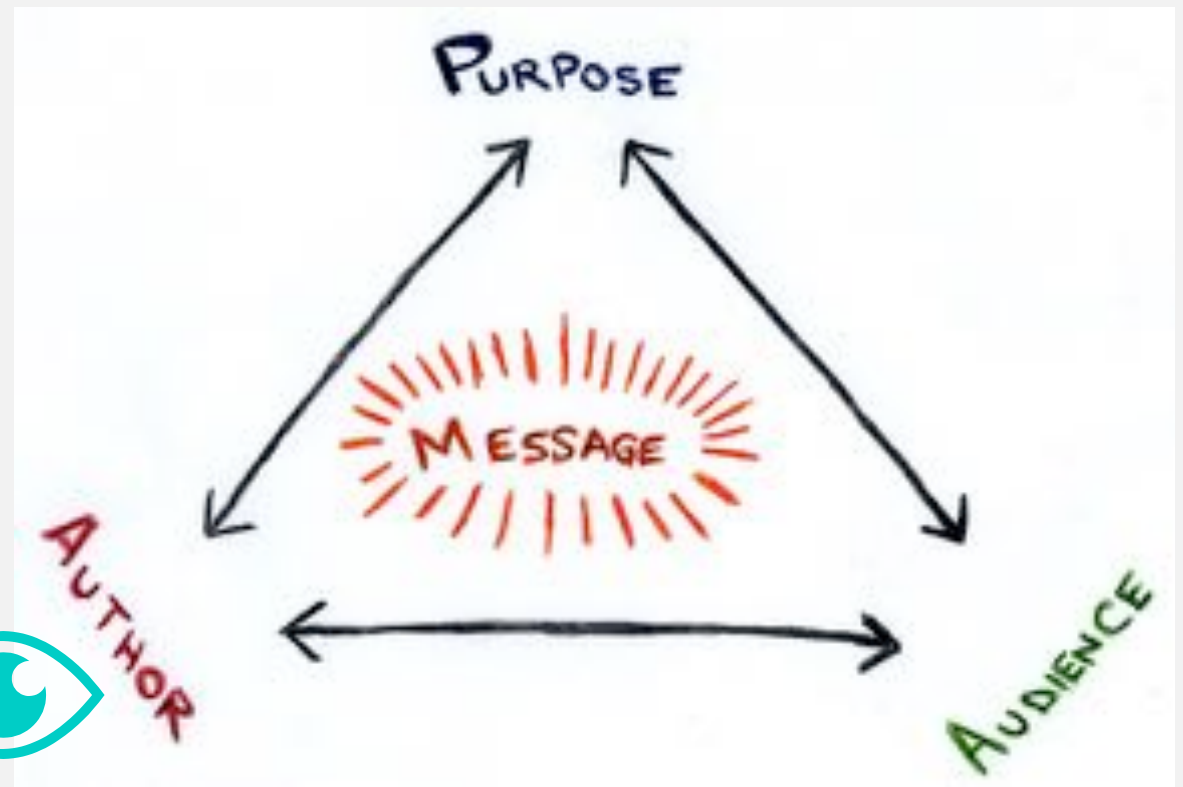
The writing process – the script

- Prewriting
- Writing
- Revision
- Editing
- Publishing

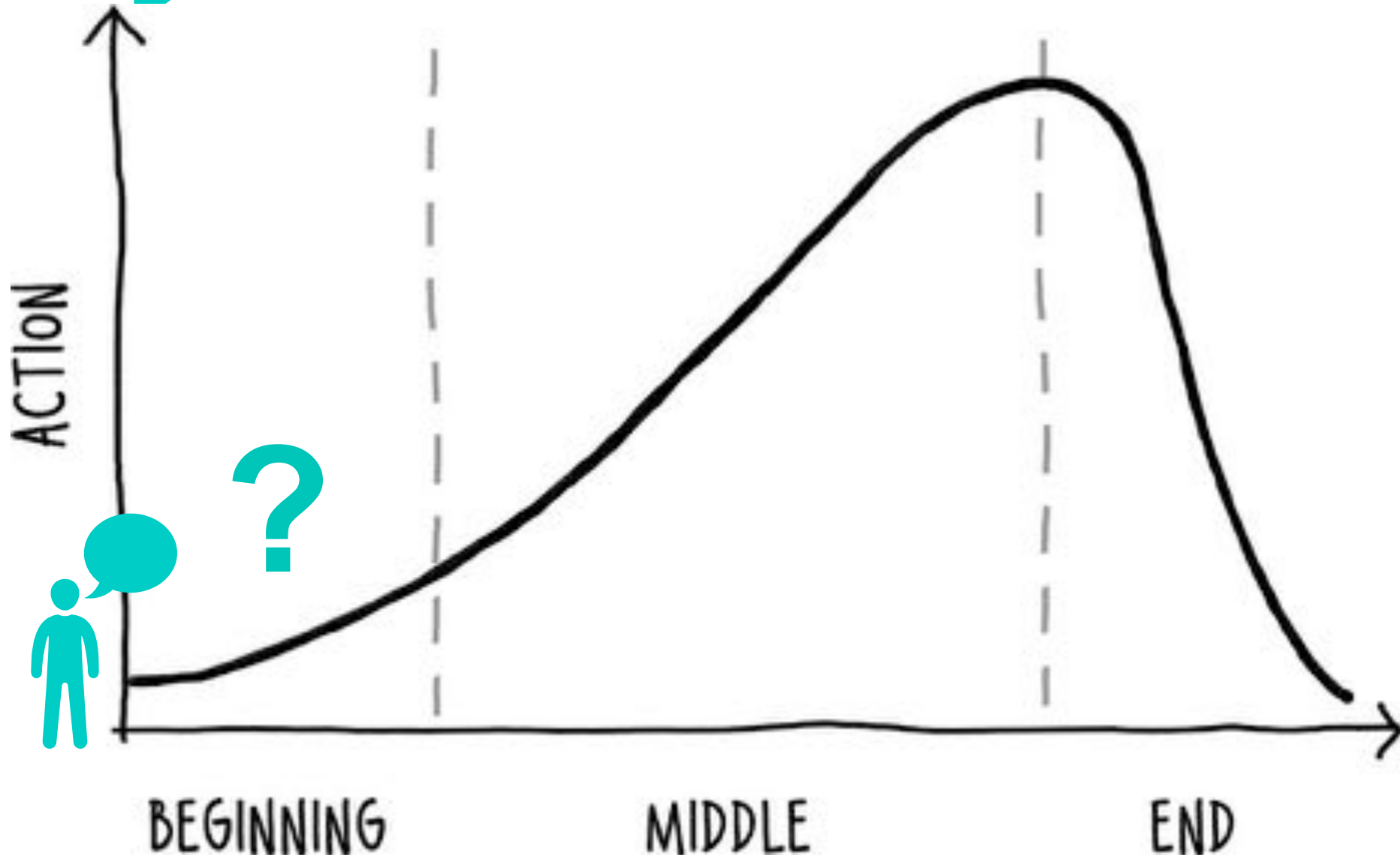


Pre-writing – the rhetorical triangle

Make it small, focused,
and personal



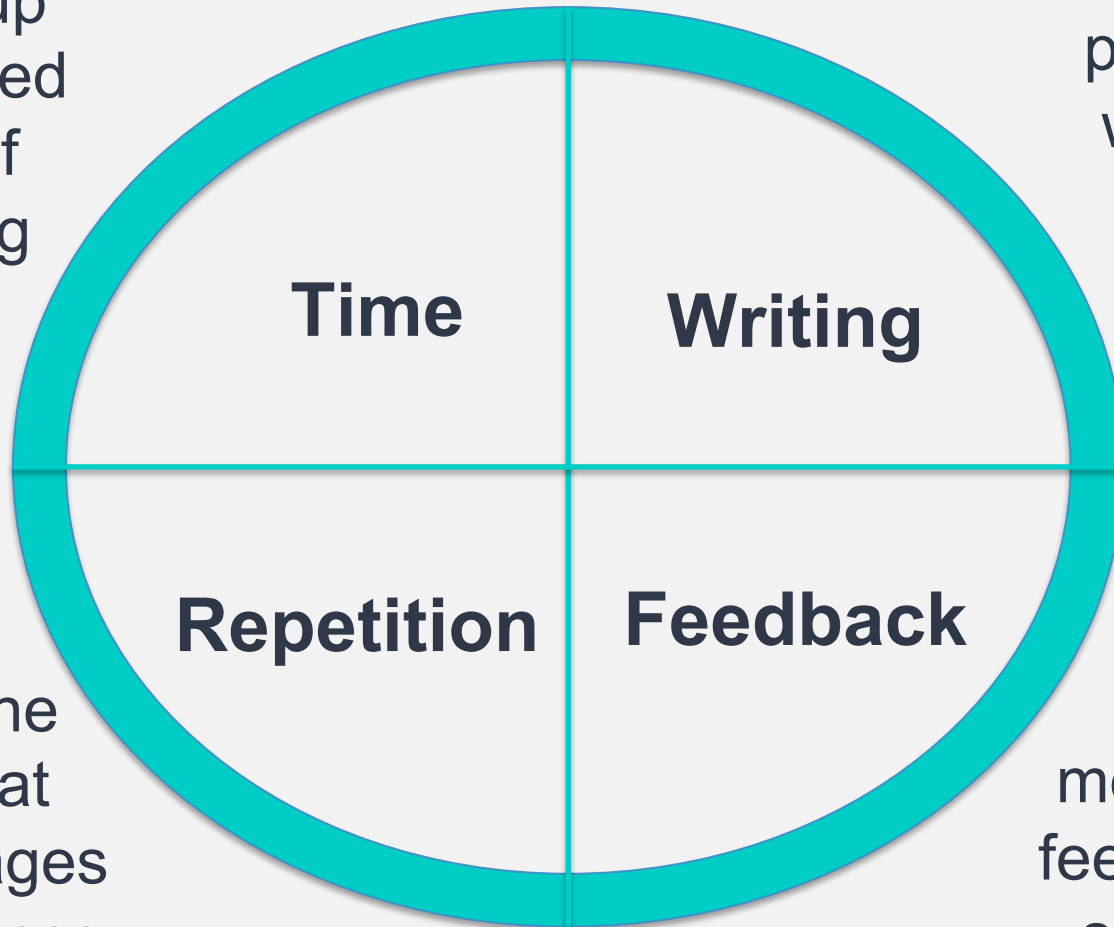
Pre-writing - the story arc



Revisions – story circles

Small group
with specified
amount of
time taking
turns

Share
prewriting or
writing with
group



Repeat the
process at
various stages
of the process

Group
members give
feedback to the
script sharer

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

Storyboard



Narration
Music/Sound effects



Narration
Music/Sound effects



Narration
Music/Sound effects



Narration
Music/Sound effects



Narration
Music/Sound effects



Narration
Music/Sound effects

70. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



71. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



72. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



73. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



74. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



75. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



76. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



77. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



78. 100% 100% 100% - 100%



Storyboard Title Team B PSA	Class	BA 422	Audience	
	Due		Topic	

Summary: Team B
7:16 seconds
Scene 1



Shot 1: Narrator introducing

Music:

4+5 secs



Shot 3: Advisor & student with

Music:

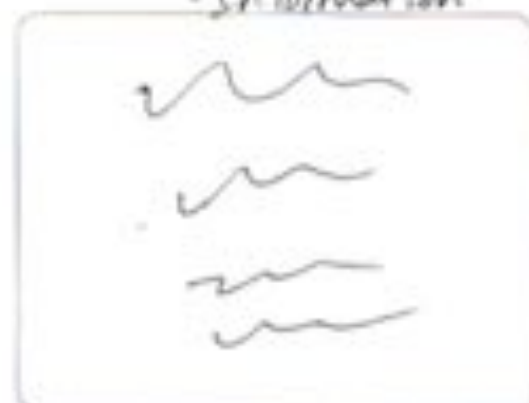
Narrator



Shot 4: student standing

Music:

beside car door



Shot 5: Narrator, describing

SFX:

info.



Shot 6:

Music:

Storyboard The Animals...

Client: Professor Craves

Spot:

Title:

Thomas Lucas Project #12

Job #:



Shot 1: Rossville Lake

SFX: V/O



Shot 2: Trouble in the water

SFX: V/O



Shot 3: Boy is drowned

SFX: V/O



Shot 4: Tragic scene boy

SFX: V/O



Shot 5: End quote and credits

Music: Mellow Piano

Import, record, and finalize

Apps for recording audio



Software for recording audio



Software for creating digital story videos



Share your story

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?

Credits

Resources

- [Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling](#)
- [UMBC Digital Stories Gallery](#)
- [Center for Digital Storytelling](#)

Readings

- Brenner, Kathy. Digital Stories: A 21st-Century Communication Tool for the English Language Classroom.
https://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/52_1_5_brenner.pdf
- Morra, Samantha. 8 Steps to Great Digital Storytelling.
<https://samanthamorra.com/2013/06/05/edudemic-article-on-digital-storytelling/>

Credits

- Vinogradova, Polina. Digital Stories in a Language Classroom: Engaging Students through a Meaningful Multimodal Task.
<http://fltmag.com/digital-stories/>

Videos

- Schein, Johanna. Cycling in Baltimore: Little Joe's Sporting Good Store. <https://goo.gl/dhV8qM>
- Santijitrungruang, Saphassorn. My Big Foot.
http://stories.umbc.edu/projects.php?yt=Jcsk2R8_esM

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

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#)