

Digital Storytelling Workshop  
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Digital Storytelling Workshop Schedule

- Feb 12 (today): Elements of Digital Storytelling
- Feb 14: Story circle (7-8 people)
- Feb 17: Story circle (7-8 people)
- Feb 19: Walk through digital storytelling process (practice GarageBand, iMovie, Afterlight)
- Feb 21-24<sup>th</sup> Recording and editing sessions (2 hours; 6 possible times)
- Public screening (Time TBA)

Assignments:

1. By February 17<sup>th</sup> (e.g. weekend Feb 15-6)  
Get access to a camera; take photos that relate to the story you want to tell. (Don't just be literal about this relationship: think about images that communicate feelings or ideas related to your story.)
2. By Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 5 p.m (story circle Feb 17<sup>th</sup>): email revised script.  
Produce a 250-350 word first-draft script.  
Get feedback on your script from a classmate; give feedback to a classmate.  
Revise your script.  
Email me your revised script, plus comments and earlier draft.  
See attached short sample (shorter than your story needs to be).
3. By Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, have a USB drive with 10-25 images you can use for your story.  
Bring this USB drive to the workshop.
4. Feb 21-23. Attend one of six recording and editing sessions. Record a voice-over and combine this voice-over with your images, synching images with words.  
Before you leave the workshop, make sure that
  - I have a copy of your story with your full name as the title on my laptop;
  - You have a copy of your story on a USB drive;
  - I have a signed permission form from you (see attached), indicating whether or not you're willing for your story to be used as part of the Maghrebi Voices project and website.

## Peer editing suggestions

### Overall feedback

When reading your partner's script, please offer feedback in these general categories:

1. Here's what I see as the message (or key motif or unifying feature) of your story...
2. These were the paragraphs (or sentences or phrases) that lit up for me.
3. This was a place I thought you could cut some words, or let an image might take the place of language.

### Specifics

When it comes to writing a voiceover script, most people struggle in one of two ways. Some people have a hard time gathering words on the page: they struggle with developing their ideas. Other people write a lot, but have a hard time focusing or finding the center of their story.

### Development

These questions can help storytellers expand their ideas and their narrative:

Story circle reminders:

One phrase that was really powerful in the story circle was...

When you were telling your story, the image that struck me was....

Do you remember how everyone jumped when you said...?

Context questions:

What was the first time you had this experience? What was that like?

Where were you when this was happening? Can you describe the space?

What did you see when this was happening? What did you hear?

Remind me why this story is important to tell? Why is it important to tell now?

### Focus

Here are some questions you can pose to your partner if he/she has too much written and is having trouble with focus:

Is there material here that an image might communicate even better than words?

Point to words, sentences, or paragraphs and ask: what would it be like to leave this out?

### Tone

If your partner's story seems too formal, you can invite him or her to simply speak the story to you while you write down what they say. This can help a person find a more natural tone and sometimes produce a more concise script at the same time.

## Sample script-writing and revision

### Joe Lambert: 1<sup>st</sup> draft (147 words)

Well, first of all, let me just say, I was seventeen at the time. And I had finished high school that summer. My dad had smoked three packs a day, and had been trying to quit smoking for a couple of months. He was 61, and had a difficult life as a union organizer working in Texas and the South. But we had had a vacation the month before and he seemed like he was doing okay.

He came down from his bedroom saying that he had a terrible pain. We called the doctor. The doctor said that it was probably an ulcer attack. He had had several of those. We waited. He got much worse. We decided to rush him to the hospital. It was a heart attack. He died within a half hour. My mom was hysterical. It was a night I will always remember.

### Peer editing questions (Betsy Bolton; imaginary discussion):

Message: I think this story is about your dad's death and how unexpected it was. Your mom's hysteria stands out for me, and how memorable it was for you. Can you tell me more about what made it memorable?

Where were you when this was happening? Can you describe the space? What did you see or hear that stood out to you? What do you remember most vividly?

We were at the hospital. I mostly remember my mother screaming when she heard the news.

What changed most dramatically after this moment in your life?

My mom's life was totally changed. Mine was, too, but she was never the same after that.

Why are you telling this story now?

My mother's memorial service. To try to get at how deeply she loved my father and how important this moment was to her.

### Joe Lambert: 2<sup>nd</sup> draft (113 words)

I will never forget the sound of my mom's voice when the doctor said, "George is dead."

God No! No! No! A scream. A release. An explosion.

The sound of her wail bounced off all the walls of the emergency room at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, bounced down the streets and through the trees, bounced out into the night sky, all the way across the universe of my young mind.

In a single moment, a single pronouncement, everything changed for my mom. It divided her life in two. And it taught me that love can reach down into the cellular essence of awareness, and with its rupture, tear a human being in half.

Maghrebi Voices Project: Informed consent

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, grant Swarthmore College, and the Fulbright Scholars Program permission to use my image, voice, and all or part of my final digital story project in the following ways:

- By checking this box, I express my willingness to share my story with members of other digital storytelling workshops in Morocco.
- By checking this box, I express my willingness to have my story posted in its original language on a Vimeo channel (provisionally entitled “Maghrebi voices”). I understand that this posting will allow the story to appear in search engines and be viewed by an international audience. I understand that this channel may be promoted through social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter with the intention of finding a broader audience for these stories.
- By checking this box, I express my willingness to have my story subtitled in English (or French/Arabic) and posted on a Vimeo channel (provisionally entitled “Maghrebi voices”). I understand that this translation will make the story more accessible to English-language search engines and international audiences.
- By checking this box, I express my willingness to have my story used for any and all promotional, educational, and outreach purposes, including all the above options.

I understand that I have the right to voluntarily enter into this agreement. I may choose to withdraw my consent to share the story at a later time. If the story has previously been made available on Vimeo, I can ask to know how many times it has been viewed. I release Swarthmore College and the Fulbright Scholars Program from any privacy, defamation or other claims arising out of use of this story.

Swarthmore College and the Fulbright Scholar Program thank you for your willingness to share your story.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name  
\_\_\_\_\_ Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_ Story Title  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
\_\_\_\_\_ Address  
\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone  
\_\_\_\_\_ Email