



Introduction to Digital Storytelling

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About

Maghrebi Voices explores place-based writing in Morocco. The pages you see here represent various facets of my Fulbright research project, 2013-2014. Statements made here reflect my views or views expressed to me by individuals; no statement here should be taken as representing a position held by the Fulbright Commission or the United States Government.

Fulbright grants are supported by U.S. taxpayers. As both a taxpayer and a grantee, I would like to express my appreciation for a program dedicated to improving cross-cultural understanding around the world.

Digital Storytelling

- Bringing words and images together in video form to tell a brief first-person story that matters
- reflexive prose provides the background and the core of digital storytelling

Sources/Inspirations:

Center for Digital Storytelling: www.storycenter.org

Ruben Puentadora: www.hippasus.com/rrpweblog

Schedule (insh'allah)

- Feb 12 (today): Elements of Digital Storytelling
- Feb 14: Story circle (7-8 people)
- Feb 17: Story circle (7-8 people)
- Feb 18: Revised SCRIPT due by 5 p.m.
- Feb 19: Walk through digital storytelling process
- Feb 21-24th Recording and editing sessions
(2 hours; 6 possible times)
- Public screening (Time TBA)

Elements of digital storytelling

- Find your message
- Find the “change moment”
- Hear your story
- See your story
- Compose your story

Examples: La moustache (Ismail Bahsaine)

Journeys (Daisy Larios)

Find your message

- What's your key idea?
- Who's your audience?
- Urgency: why tell this story now?
- Feelings: how does this story make you feel?
- How do you want your audience to feel?

Find the change moment

- What changed for you as a result of this story?
(ideas, feelings, behavior...)
- How can your audience see, hear, or otherwise understand these changes?

When thinking about what story to tell, consider telling a story about a moment when your life changed.

Hear your story: the importance of your voice

- Your voice communicates how important this story is to you: your tone, your words should be personal. (Write a script using spoken language norms or poetic language rather than formal essay-style English.)
- Your voice has the power to transform spectators into confidants: make use of that power.

See your story

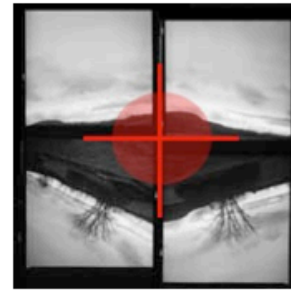
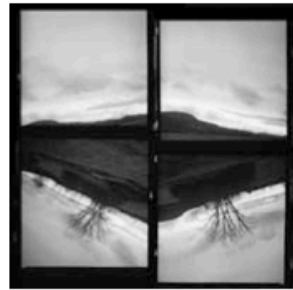
- Lay hands on a camera and take some photos to help communicate your story—and/or retrieve old photos that help tell the story of an earlier moment in your life.
- Don't just illustrate each word of the story; create photos that evoke mood and feeling, or photos that produce some tension with the words you are speaking.

See your story: some guidelines for shaping powerful images

- The rule of centers
- The rule of thirds
- Lines of direction, and of action
- Constructing panels

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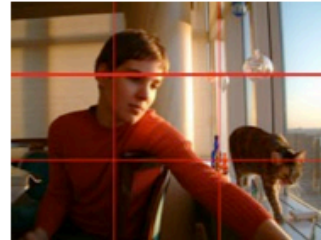
See your story: the power of centers



Digital Storytelling - Basic Thoughts about Visual Composition. Marietta Kesting. 2004.
<http://hippasus.com/resources/viscomp/index.html>

Ruben Puentadora: www.hippasus.com/rrpweblog

See your story: The rule of thirds



See your story: Lines of direction



See your story: Leading action



See your story: common kinds of shots

- Big Close-Up



- Close-Up



- Medium Shot



- Long Shot



Compose your story

- Don't use words and images to communicate the same idea at the same moment.
- Use all modes of communication: words and silence, image and blank space
- Use a storyboard (manual or digital) to shape the arc of your story.

Story Circles and scripts

Story Circle: come ready to share your ideas for your story. Be ready to summarize what you see as your message and the change moment that communicates that idea. Bring any images or objects that help tell your story. Each person will have 5 minutes to describe their ideas and receive feedback.

After you participate in the Story Circle, you'll need to write a 250-350 word script, get feedback from a classmate, revise the script and email it to me for comments:

ebolton1@swarthmore.edu.

Due to me by Wednesday 5 p.m.

I'll get you feedback within 24 hours.

Revised scripts due by the start of your workshop session.

Journal 14: Brainstorming

- Sketch out the bare outline of a story you want to tell to someone right now—about something that really matters to you. (You'll have time to share and get feedback on this story in one of the next two classes.) Feel free to draw on your reflective essay for this.
- If nothing comes to mind, try one of these prompts:
 - A time I was lost
 - A powerful or secret or favorite place
 - An important person in my life
 - A time I was really scared

Story Circle rules

- Listen; don't interrupt
- Start by appreciating something about the story
- Remember that the storyteller owns the story: start suggestions with the phrase "If it were my story..."
- Avoid repeating other comments (use snaps instead)
- Maintain confidentiality
- Take notes for storyteller on your right