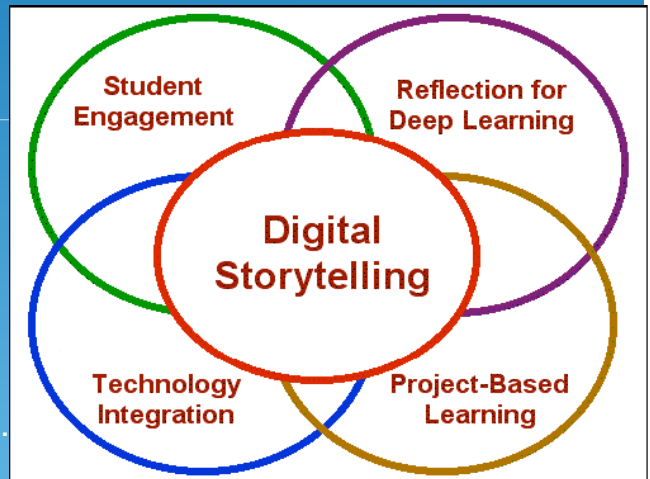# Digital Storytelling

By: Mark Ellner and Jill Jezek

What is it?

"Digital storytelling is the practice of combining narrative with digital content, including images, sound, and video, to create a short movie, typically with a strong emotional component," according to Educause Learning Initiative (2007).

Digital storytelling is a technology that can easily be integrated into the curriculum in virtually any subject. The possibilities are endless. "It encourages [students] to communicate, collaborate, and research as well as to infuse media into the process" (edtechteacher, 2012).

Resources

Digital Storytelling Teacher Guild
A free ebook created by Microsoft to act as a resource for creating digital stories.
http://www.microsoft.com/education/en-us/teachers/guides/Pages/digital_storytelling.aspx

The Digital Directors Guide
Sample projects and resources to teachers.
http://ddguild.org/index.html

Digital Storytelling Tools For Educators
A How-To guide for using digital storytelling in the classroom.
lulu.com (Search Digital Storytelling Tools for Educators)
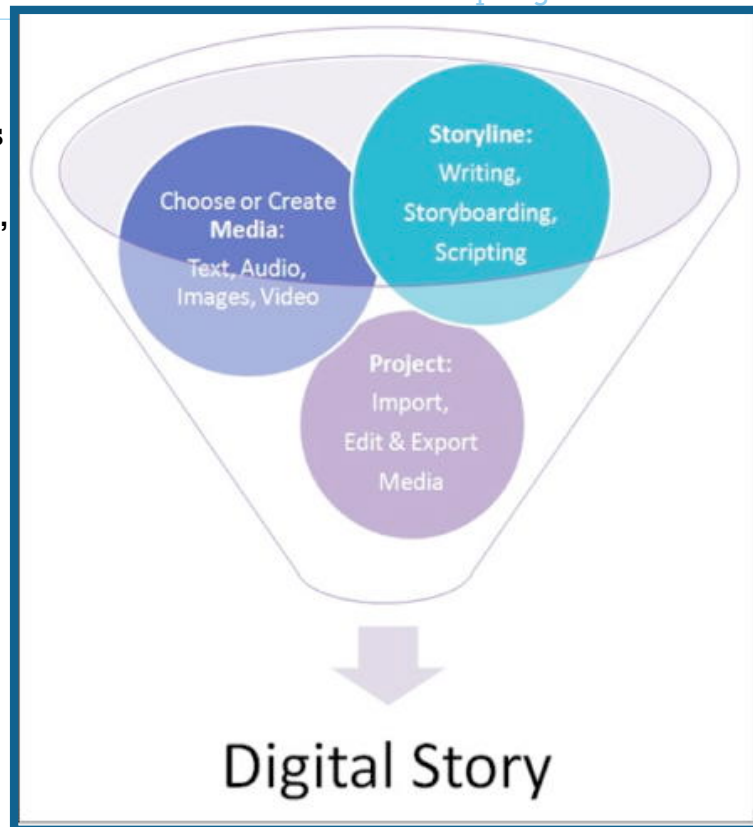
Examples of Digital Storytelling Types
Outstanding example projects.
http://www.speedofcreativity.org/2008/11/28/examples-of-digital-storytelling-types/

Tools to Try

Story Kit — Use and iPhone or iPad to create a story book.

Story Patch — Children can use to make picture books using over a 1000 images or imported images.

I Tell a Story — An audio recording and editing tool that allows for photos to be added to a story.

Zoo Burst — An audio recording and editing tool that allows for photos to be added to a story.

Helpful Hints…

1. **Define digital storytelling** to your students by explaining how it involves mixing audio and visual elements to create a digital product, kind of like a movie.

2. **Show students an example** of digital storytelling by turning one of your student's favorite tales into a digital storytelling experience.

3. Give your students freedom, but **hold them accountable**. One way to do this is to have students write a one-paragraph description of their project and provide a production schedule.

4. Encourage the phrase, **"Less is more,"** when it comes to images and visual effects. Most students will want to overload their presentation with pictures.

5. Make students **slow down when recording their voice over.** The audience needs time to process images, and that a slower pace is much more effective.
(Orech, 2007)

Choose or Create Media: Text, Audio, Images, Video

Storyline: Writing, Storyboarding, Scripting

Project: Import, Edit & Export Media

Digital Story

It's as easy as…1, 2, 3!

1. First, you need a storyline. This involves writing your script and making a storyboard to follow.
2. Next, create your media by choosing text, audio, images, or video.
3. Finally, import your media and script. Edit and revise any changes. Share your digital story!

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