Implementing a Digital Story – Checklist

• Create an Assignment.
  o What are the Course Objectives/Outcomes that you will meet with the DS project?
  o Where on the story spectrum will your project be? Personal, poetic, documentary, or report?
  o What elements do you want the story to have?
  o Is this from scratch or replacing a paper/project?
  o Is this an individual assignment or with a group?
  o Brainstorm some story prompts with colleagues.
  o How will you evaluate the finished stories? A rubric?

• Make a model digital story for your students.

• Schedule the DS Assignment into your syllabus/outline.
  o When do you want this finished? (Reverse plan the due dates)
  o What are milestones that you will evaluate? Possible milestones:
    ▪ Research story topic
    ▪ Script
    ▪ Story Circle (Peer Review)
    ▪ Storyboard / Story table
    ▪ Final Product
    ▪ Post-DS Reflection
  o Build the milestones you choose into your syllabus.
  o Will you allot time in class for production or will it be done as homework?
  o Decide what time is needed in class for:
    ▪ Teaching story structure
    ▪ Teaching editing software
    ▪ Research using library resources (if needed)
    ▪ Viewing stories (showcase)

• Assess resources at your institution.
  o If research, where will students gather it? Is there someone to assist in gathering?
  o What film editing software is available?
  o Do students have access to a computer lab?
  o Can you book a computer lab for your class?
  o Are there support structures (AV or IT) to aid students in production?
  o What assistance is there for students to gathering visual/audio content?
  o How will you and your students address copyright issues with music and images?
• Teach story structure and engaging narrative techniques.
  o Become familiar with the Center for Digital Storytelling’s (Lambert’s) Seven Elements and Seven Steps. See handout and references below
  o Consider using the “Haircut” exercise.
  o Offer resources like Mercy’s Lib guide & Uni Huston (see below)
  o Story Arc (Freytag’s Triangle), or Visual Portrait of a Story
  o Select 2 to 4 examples to show in class (including the one you created)
  o Critique the example stories

• Guide students through an effective story circle or other peer review.
  o Review the Story Circle Sample Questions. See Handout.

• Assist students in collecting resources and creating a storyboard/story table.

• Assist students in production.
  o Do your students need tutorials on editing software?
  o Where will students go if there is a need for tech support?

• Collect and watch the final stories.
  o Ensure stories are in the proper format for viewing.
  o Verify room presentation capabilities.
  o Bring popcorn!
  o Consider asking students for a release/wavier to show stories outside of class.

Helpful Resources:

Mercy College Lib Guide on Digital Storytelling
A website organized in tabs to guide anyone creating a digital story from script, to storyboard, and through production.
http://libguides.mercy.edu/digitalstorytelling

University of Houston’s Digital Storytelling web site:
Packed with useful information and several examples from a wide range of disciplines.
http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/

Our Favorite Books:

• Digital Storytelling: Capturing Lives, Creating Community, by Joe Lambert
• Digital Storytelling Cookbook, by Joe Lambert  http://www.storycenter.org/
• Digital Storytelling in the Classroom: New Media Pathways to Literacy, Learning, and Creativity, by Jason Ohler  http://www.jasonohler.com