



## **Professional Development Institute**

### **Flex Course Syllabus**

# **Digital Storytelling: Using Technology to Write Stories (4-12)**

**PDI Course Number: 43T02**

**UCSD Course Number: EDUC41612**

If you would like information about receiving post-baccalaureate (graduate) credit for completing this course, [please click here](#).

### **Course Timeline**

Participants have one year to complete the course. Participants must spend a minimum of three weeks in this course.

### **Course Description**

Are you interested in learning creative ways to integrate writing and technology within your content curriculum? Digital storytelling is an excellent way to engage students because it allows them to use their technology skills to tell a story. There are also strong connections between digital story telling and writing content standards. This online course takes you through the entire digital storytelling process, from start to finish including story planning best practices, creating the story core, using story maps, and creating a script and story table. Teachers gain suggestions for efficiently teaching students to gather, produce, assemble, and edit various forms of media. Teachers will learn how to design digital storytelling projects for all content areas, allowing them to incorporate writing throughout the curriculum. Strategies and ideas are shared for story content as well as technology that can be used to produce the stories. Suggestions for student performance and presentation are shared along with appropriate ways to assess digital stories. The course also includes a sample digital story that can be shared with students as an exemplar. By the end of this course, teachers will feel confident teaching students how to create digital stories.

## **Educational Outcomes**

1. Teachers will understand the history of storytelling.
2. Teachers will understand the advantages of using digital storytelling in the classroom.
3. Teachers will learn ways that both teachers and students can use digital storytelling.
4. Teachers will understand the elements of digital storytelling.
5. Teachers will review the references to technology and storytelling in the Common Core State Standards.
6. Teachers will discover the many free software options available for creating digital stories.
7. Teachers will learn effective search strategies they can pass on to students.
8. Teachers will learn how to teach students about copyright issues as well as how to avoid plagiarism.
9. Teachers will understand the different types of digital stories.
10. Teachers will learn the importance of the story core to the digital storytelling process.
11. Teachers will learn the purpose of story maps as well as strategies for teaching students how to develop them.
12. Teachers will learn several transformation taxonomies they can use to help students develop characters and stories.
13. Teachers will discover tools to help students develop scripts.
14. Teachers will gain tips for best practices in first draft script writing.
15. Teachers will learn about story tables and how they help students define multimedia components for digital stories.
16. Teachers will learn media selection best practices.
17. Teachers will learn search tips to provide students for locating images and video to use in digital stories.
18. Teachers will learn how to edit images, audio, and video.
19. Teachers will learn a variety of ways to share digital stories.
20. Teachers will learn the various options for presenting digital stories.
21. Teachers will learn how to develop rubrics to assess digital stories.

## **Instructional Media**

- Online Discussions
- Online Engagement
- Online Collaboration
- Instructor Feedback
- Instructor Interaction
- Online Resources and Websites
- Supplemental Instructional Materials
- Printable Classroom Resources

## Evaluation

- Test #1 (5% of final grade)
- Test #2 (5% of final grade)
- Test #3 (5% of final grade)
- Test #4 (5% of final grade)
- Test #5 (5% of final grade)
- Autobiography and Goals for the Course (10% of final grade)
- Article/Video Reflection (15% of final grade)
- Course Collaboration/Share Ideas with the Class (10% of final grade)
- Cumulative Assignment/Project: Create a Digital Storytelling Project and Rubric (20% of final grade)
- Culminating Practicum (20% of final grade)

## Topical Outline

### Unit One

- What is digital storytelling?
- Digital Storytelling in the Classroom
- Digital Storytelling and the Common Core State Standards
- **Assignment #1**  
*Write an autobiography including information about yourself, your grade level and what you specifically hope to learn about using digital storytelling as part of your curriculum. Your autobiography should be a minimum of three paragraphs.*
- **Test #1**

### Unit Two

- Basic Concepts and Materials
- Digital Literacy and Best Practices
- Types of Digital Stories
- **Assignment #2**  
*As an educator, it is important to be aware of the research, studies, and professional work done in the field. In the course, you will find an article and video that are relevant to the specific course content. Read the article and then write an essay with your thoughts.*
- **Test #2**

### Unit Three

- Steps to Creating Digital Stories
- The Story Core
- Using Story Maps

- **Assignment #3**  
*Online Discussion Board Participation/Engagement: Please post a tip, strategy, or idea that specifically relates to using digital storytelling and will make a difference to other teachers in their own classrooms. Your assignment should be a minimum of three paragraphs and detailed enough for another teacher to easily follow. This is a great opportunity to share and collaborate with other teachers at your grade level around the country. Take time to review and respond to other postings that are relevant to your classroom population in order to gain effective ideas to use immediately in your classroom.*
- **Test #3**

## Unit Four

- Story Planning Best Practices
- Character Transformation
- Creating a Script and Story Table
- **Test #4**

## Unit Five

- Gathering and Producing Media
- Assembling and Editing Media
- Finalizing and Sharing the Product
- **Test #5**

## Unit Six

- Performance and Presentation
- Assessing Digital Stories
- Creating a Digital Story: A Sample
- **Assignment #4**  
*Create a digital storytelling project that directly connects to the curriculum. Explain the project in detail and how it connects to the curriculum. List all the specific standards the project addresses and provide a detailed and extensive list of the requirements for the project. Then, using a common story as an example, develop a detailed story table that can be shared with students as an excellent example. Next, develop a production rubric and a presentation rubric for the digital storytelling project. Each rubric should have four levels of achievement to correspond to grades A through D for the assignment and at least five different criteria to assess the project on. Do not simply copy the criteria from the course example. Your rubric must directly correspond to the project you created.*
- **Assignment #5**  
*The culminating practicum is a three-step process. (1) In the first assignment, you were asked what goals you had and what you hoped to learn from the course. Think back to your original goals for this course. Write a minimum two-paragraph reflection specifically describing how what you learned can be used to*

help you reach those goal(s). (2) Next, write a minimum three-paragraph plan that specifically describes the ways in which you intend to implement a particular strategy you learned in this course into your own teaching situation. (3) Last, write a minimum two-paragraph reflection describing a student you have or have had in the past. Then, discuss how the strategies you learned in this course will specifically benefit that student as you put your plan into action.

## Bibliography

The Professional Development Institute wishes to thank the NGA Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Offices for their generous public license of the Common Core State Standards.

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