Multiple Purposes of Digital Stories and Podcasts in ePortfolios
or YouTube/iTunes meet “academic” MySpace

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Electronic Portfolios and Digital Storytelling for Lifelong and Life Wide Learning

Based on 2 papers online
• Authentic Assessment with Electronic Portfolios using Common Software and Web 2.0 Tools
• Purposes of Digital Stories in ePortfolios
  – http://electronicportfolios.org/digistory/purposes.html

Voice
Individual Identity
Reflection
Meaning Making
New Literacy

Why Digital Stories in ePortfolios?
• Reflection is the “heart and soul” of portfolios
• Digital Stories can humanize any model of ePortfolio
• Digital Stories add **VOICE**

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/
The Partnership for 21st Century Skills
New Framework for 21st Century Skills
http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/

New ISTE NETS for Students
1. Creativity and Innovation
2. Communication and Collaboration
3. Research and Information Fluency
4. Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving & Decision-Making
5. Digital Citizenship
6. Technology Operations and Concepts

The World in Flat
• Thomas Friedman, New York Times Columnist
• A look at the change and globalization since Y2K

The Right Stuff - Learning in a Flat World
“How we educate our children may prove to be more important than how much.”
Abilities for a flat world:
1. Learn how to learn
2. CQ (curiosity) + PQ (passion) > IQ
3. People Skills
4. Right Brain Stuff

A Whole New Mind
• Daniel Pink
• Balancing Right-Brain skills for the “Conceptual Age” with Left-Brain skills from the “Information Age”

6 Essential High-Concept, High Touch Aptitudes – Dan Pink, A Whole New Mind
1. Design (not just function) - create objects beautiful, whimsical, emotionally engaging
2. Story (not just argument) - the ability to fashion a compelling narrative
3. Symphony (not just focus) - synthesis - seeing the big picture
4. Empathy (not just logic) - forge relationships - care for others
5. Play (not just seriousness) - laughter, lightheartedness, games, humor
6. Meaning (not just accumulation) - purpose, transcendence, and spiritual fulfillment.
Resource on Biology of Learning

- Enriching the Practice of Teaching by Exploring the Biology of Learning
- James E. Zull
- Stylus Publishing Co.

The Learning Cycle

David Kolb from Dewey, Piaget, Lewin, adapted by Zull

Storytelling as a Theory of Learning

- Two educators from New Zealand - staff developer and health educator
- Relates storytelling to literature on learning and reflection
- Provides stages of storytelling related to reflection

Portfolio tells a Story

“... A portfolio tells a story. It is the story of knowing. Knowing about things... Knowing oneself... Knowing an audience... Portfolios are students’ own stories of what they know, why they believe they know it, and why others should be of the same opinion.”
(Paulson & Paulson, 1991, p.2)

Helping Students Tell Their Stories

- COLLECT more than text documents
  - Pictures
  - Audio
  - Video
- Focus on REFLECTION over time
- Help students make CONNECTIONS
- Support multimedia presentation formats
Reflection:
The “Heart and Soul” of a Portfolio

Digital Storytelling Process
• Learners create a 1–4 minute digital video clip
  - First person narrative
    [begins with a written script ~ 400 words]
  - Told in their own voice [record script]
  - Illustrated (mostly) by still images
  - Music track to add emotional tone

A Dozen Purposes for Digital Storytelling
• Introduction of Self
  - Voice & Personality
  - Legacy
  - Biography
  - Memoir
• Reflection
  - Transition
  - Decision & Direction
  - Benchmarking Development
  - Change over Time

Voice & Personality
• Voice is often missing from electronic portfolios, both literally and rhetorically.
• A digital story provides that voice: listening to the author, we hear a real person, getting a sense of their unique personality.

Legacy
• Digital stories can provide us with an opportunity to leave a legacy of our family stories for those who come after us.
• Legacy stories are usually told about a person or place.

My Sister Sarah

Biography
• A biography provides the facts about a life, whether of the storyteller or another person.

Victoria’s 1st Grade Reflection

Victoria’s 2nd Grade Autobiography
Victoria’s 2nd Grade Autobiography

Memoir
- Whereas a legacy story is told for or about another person or place, a memoir is very personal, told in the first person, focusing on the memories of the storyteller.
- Memoirs are autobiographical in nature, but are much more personal and reflective.
- They are often much longer than a typical digital story.

Reflection - Transition
- Some learners reflect on the major changes or transitions in their lives.
- Reflection can help us make sense of these changes.
- Telling digital stories could also help the transition to retirement or any other major life change.
  
  Coming Full Circle

Reflection - Decision
- Digital stories can be used to either weigh the options in a decision to be made
- or document the process used to make decisions.

Choices

Benchmarking Development
- At each point (of development) a digital story snapshot would be an extremely appropriate part of a portfolio

Key School Portfolio

Change over time
- Maintain a collection of work over time
- Recognize when growth and change has occurred
- Reflect on the changes they see in their own performance
- Process has the potential to increase students’ self esteem.

Victoria’s Kindergarten Reflection
Evidence of Collaboration

- Much of the work in both schools and the workplace is the result of collaboration
- A digital story could provide explanation of the process.

Documentary

- A digital video can take the place of a research paper or a PowerPoint presentation.
- Story takes on characteristics of a documentary, often fact-based without emotional content.

What is Digital Storytelling?

Record of Experience

- Often no concrete product that can be represented in a discrete artifact.
- Could be used to reflect on and document an experience.
- Could provide the final evidence of a project-based learning activity.

Chevak

Oral Language

- Learning to speak in a second language.
- Early childhood students learning to read in their native language.
- Learners record their voice, speaking or reading out loud at different stages of development.
- Demonstrating growth over time.
- “Podcast” could be an audio-only digital story without the visual component.

Rich Digital Artifacts

- Showcase student work with explanatory narrative.

Naya’s Drawings

Voice = Authenticity

- Multimedia expands the “voice” in an electronic portfolio (both literally and rhetorically).
- Personality of the author is evident.
- Gives the reflections a uniqueness.
How to Develop Digital Stories

Process and Tools

1. Script development: write the story, often with a group called a story circle to provide feedback and story development ideas
2. Record the author reading the story (audio recording and editing)
3. Capture and process the images to further illustrate the story (image scanning and editing)
4. Combine audio and images (and any additional video) onto a timeline, add music track (video editing)
5. Present or publish finished version of story

Microphones

- Belkin TuneTalk
- Samson USB Mic

Web 2.0 Development Tools

- Collaborative writing tools for script development and collaborative writing:
  - Google Docs or any wiki
- Online Tools for Video Editing
  - BubbleShare
  - Primary Access
  - Jump Cut
  - Eye Spot
  - PhotoBucket
- Online Tools for Audio Recording
  - Odeo
  - Podomatic

What's Your Story?

Richness not possible in print
Audiences worldwide but most likely small and intimate.
Digital Stories and e-Portfolios
• highly motivating project-based learning activity
• powerful artifacts in electronic portfolios
• importance of reflection in e-portfolios
• tools for scaffolding reflection: blogging and digital storytelling
• Storytelling: reflection on experience to improve learning (McDrury & Alterio)
• the role of reflection in brain-based learning (Zull)

Name Tags
My Reflection on my own Professional Learning for my Professional Portfolio

My Final Wish...
May all your electronic portfolios include dynamic celebrations and stories of deep learning across the lifespan.

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