Digital Storytelling

for Social Impact

Dr. Lisa Dush
Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse

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Slides online: http://www.lisadush.com/digital-storytelling-social-impact/
I want you... to partner with me in a Provost's Collaborative Research Fellowship... with digital storytelling in its core methodology
digital story: a short, personal video. The story blends voice with personal images, and it is typically composed in a facilitated group workshop, using inexpensive hardware and software.
Joan's story
1. Facilitated Scriptwriting
2. Story Circle
3. Self-Produced Media
4. Screenings/Showings
As a faculty member in Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse (WRD), I'm interested in questions like...

— How do stories and counterstories *mediate thought and experience*?
— What are the *best/most ethical* story production practices?
— How can rhetoricians teach community members to *better create and circulate persuasive arguments using stories*?
4 Ways That Academics Have Used Digital Storytelling...
1. Counternarrative Research and Dissemination

Example: Hear Our Stories | UMass Amherst + WGBY/StoryCenter

Aim: Discover and articulate new narratives about Puerto Rican teen parents in Holyoke, MA

Collaborating Disciplines: Community Health Education, Anthropology, Public Relations, Public Policy

Methods: Participant observation of digital storytelling process & showings; analysis of stories; interviews; historical research
2. Professional Socialization Research

Example: Reality Shock in New Nurses | University of Nottingham + Patient Voices

Aim: Use storytelling workshops to help new nurses reflect on their transition from school to work; make and evaluate new curriculum around nurses' stories

Collaborating Disciplines: Nursing, Education, Counselling

Methods: Textual analysis of new nurses' stories; content analysis of focus groups with nurse-storytellers; design of curriculum for nursing students; analysis of post-curriculum questionnaires given to nursing students
3. Civic/Mapping Initiatives

Example: Mapping Our Voices for Equity | University of Missouri + Creative Narrations

Aim: Explore data and stories together using an online mapping tool; connect changemakers to meaningful data and stories

Collaborating Campus-Based Orgs: Institute for People, Place and Possibility; Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems; Community Initiatives

Methods: Use online tool to combine community stories with public data
4. Dialogue Projects

Example: The Guestbook Project | Boston College

Aim: Encourage young people from conflicted zones to share stories; explore the question: How do you make the enemy the guest?

Collaborating Disciplines: Philosophy, Religion, Multimedia Art

Methods: Story production workshops; story contests; interdisciplinary seminars
How can digital storytelling and digital stories be used in academic projects?

— Stories can be *data*.

— Stories can *alter public or specialist discourse*.

— Digital stories and digital storytelling methodologies can be *givebacks* to research sites.

— Digital storytelling can be a *transformative methodology* for academic researchers.
Have a project in mind? Let's talk!

ldush@depaul.edu