Digital Storytelling Video Transcript

What do podcasts, documentaries, websites and public service announcements do? Do you have a guess? They're all methods of digital storytelling. Now digital stories combine different multimedia elements such as videos, images, recorded audio and music to bring a narrative to life. Digital stories are also an effective and engaging way to convey a message to a specific audience. They can be used to inform, to persuade or to entertain. While digital stories are often short, videos, maybe two to three minutes and podcasts up to ten minutes. It takes a lot of time and effort to craft something engaging for your audience.

This video will cover five stages of the digital storytelling process. And we'll be breaking down each stage by providing simple tips to help you create a successful project. Through the video, we will also highlight resources available through the Student Multimedia Design Center, part of the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press. The five stages are plan, find, record, edit, and share. Let's dive into the first and most important step, shall we? Plan!

Planning is key to any successful digital story. There are many ways to do it. The first thing you need to do is identify the purpose and audience for your project. Once you've done that, you can start drafting the script, identifying what content you need to find or create, and storyboarding. If your digital story contains visuals, a storyboard is a great way to test out how those visuals and audio will line up. Storyboard can include very simple images such a stick, arrows denoting motion. And if you're not sure how to start a story board, you'll find many templates as well as options for creating them on our video guide. During this stage, Assess what research and information you need to craft a strong narrative that considers multiple perspectives. Even if you've already written a research paper on the same topic, you'll still want to consider what multimedia can help you share your argument in a new way.

Once you've created a plan, you'll be ready for step 2: find. You can find images, video, music, and more to add to your digital stories. Try searching for creative commons license content, which is content that one is allowing you to use for free. You still want to make sure to properly acknowledge the creative work are using, however. Some sites provide the attribution for you, but if you need to put it together yourself, our guide can help. Guide also has links to specific sites where you can find this open license content. Adding music is a great way to enhance the production quality of both video and audio stories. It's also a good device for establishing tone or vibe. Is your story lighthearted? Serious and dramatic? Consider how you can use music to make it clear to your audience. As you are searching for and evaluating content to use, keep your purpose and audience in mind. Every decision you make in crafting your digital story should be intentional, and in support of that purpose and audience. You may find yourself going back and forth between the planning and finding stages, which is normal. These stages are iterative, meaning you want to revisit them and keep refining as you go. As you begin to find content to use, consider which parts you can create yourself. That way as you continue to gather things together, we can also start working on the next stage: Record!

If you need to create original video or audio footage for your digital story, think about your recording equipment options. Don't worry if you only have a smart phone, this can be a great tool for filming. Just remember to film horizontally and keep your phone steady. If you're using your phone to record audio, make sure you are close to the audio source bore speaker. You can also record video and audio with the computer using tools such as Zoom. Loud or irritating background sounds will distract your audience. So try to find a quiet area to record. If you have headphones with a built-in mic, use them for better sound quality.

Once you have planned, found, and recorded the separate pieces of your story, it's time to put it all together with editing There are many editing tools and software to fit your needs. From simple web-based tools to advanced expensive production software. Don't worry if learning a new tool feels overwhelming. The Student Multimedia Design Center can help. We can meet with you individually or in small groups to answer questions, suggest options, and provide an overview for getting started. We also have pdf handouts and Video Tutorials for the most common software that we teach, connect with the Student Multimedia Design Center through chat or email. Whatever your comfort or experience level is with multimedia tools, just remember that you have access to learning resources, including live support that can help you put together a great digital story.

Once you have finished the final revisions for your digital story, you are ready to share it. Make sure to export your video to its desired format before doing so, the common file format for sharing audio projects is an MP3 file and the common format for videos is an MP4 file. Also consider who you want to share your project with if you want to post it online for anyone to see, make sure you aren't using copyrighted work in it. Using Creative Commons licensed or other open license content is the safest way to ensure you have permission to use the work in your own project. If you're creating something for a class assignment, you might be able to just share it with your professor and classmates, which is fine too.

From start to finish, you can create a standout digital story. in just five stages. In the plant stage, identify your purpose and audience, craft your message and design your storyboard. This is the most important step and will help your story stay focused. In the find stage, search for and evaluate different types of online content, such as images, video, and music to establish the overall look and sound of your story. In the record stage, use the equipment you have access to to record video and audio for your project. In the Edit stage, take all the components of your digital story and put them together to create a cohesive narrative. Use a variety of the editing tools to edit your story and remember to email or schedule a consultation with the Student Multimedia Design Center staff for help. In the share stage, Make sure you export your project to the proper format. And keep in mind if you are sharing your project with the small group or the whole world.

Please do not forget that the Student Multimedia Design Center can provide resources and expert help for each stage and creating your digital story. Visit our multimedia guides to learn more.